

Gay Conservatives: A Call from the Right

February 22, 1986

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GayCommunityNews

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New Immigrants to Be Greeted with HTLV-III Test?

U.S. Department of Justice

Immigration and Naturalization Service

APPLICATION FOR STATUS AS PERMANENT RESIDENT

OMB No. 1115-0053
Approval Expires 8-85

**ENTRY DENIED:
AIDS**

(DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE) (SEE INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE FILLING IN APPLICATION. IF YOU NEED MORE SPACE TO ANSWER FULLY ANY QUESTION ON THIS FORM, USE A SEPARATE SHEET AND IDENTIFY EACH ANSWER WITH THE NUMBER OF THE CORRESPONDING QUESTION. FILL IN WITH TYPEWRITER OR PRINT IN BLOCK LETTERS IN INK.)

1. I hereby apply for the status of a lawful permanent resident alien on the following basis: (Check one of the boxes below.)

- A As a person granted asylun under Section 207(a) to whom an immigrant visa is immediately available (Section 209(h), I&N Act). (No fee required.)
- B As a person who entered the U.S. with a visa issued to me as the fiancee or fi (Sec. 214(d), I&N Act).
- C As a former government official, or as a member of the immediate family o
- D As a person to whom an immigrant visa is immediately available, other th
- E As a person who has resided in the United States continuously since prior
- F As a person who has resided in the United States continuously since a date
- G As a motion to reopen or to reconsider my case in deportation proceedings

2. My name is (family in capital letters) (First Given) (Middle)

4. I reside in the United States at: (c/o) (Apt. No.) (No. and Street)

(City) (State) (ZIP Code)

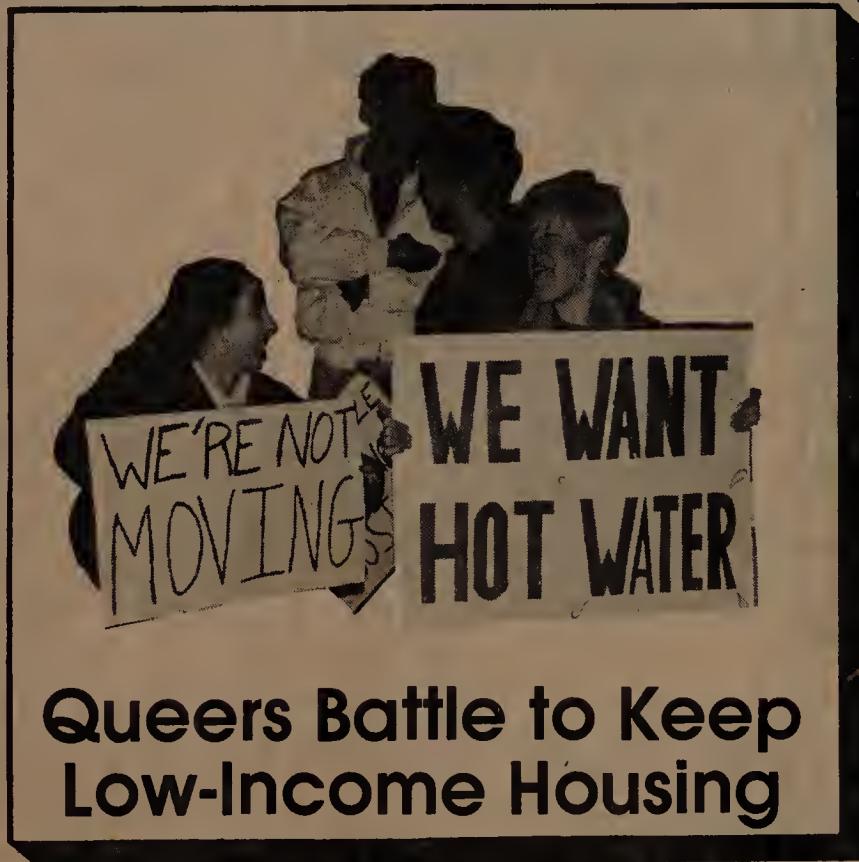
6. My file number is 7. I am a citizen of (Country)

9. Place of Birth (City or Town) (County, Province, or St

10. Name as appears on nonimmigrant document (Form I-94)

Last arrived in the United States at the port of (City and State)

as a (visitor, student, crewman, parolee, etc.)



**Queers Battle to Keep
Low-Income Housing**

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Applicants testing antibody positive would be excluded

HHS to Screen New Immigrants for HTLV-III?

By Marcos Bisticas-Cocoves

WASHINGTON, DC — The Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) has proposed that people with AIDS wishing to immigrate to the United States be denied permanent-residence status. He has further proposed that tests for the presence of HTLV-III in blood be used to screen for the syndrome, even though agencies within his department do not consider such tests diagnostic of AIDS.

The secretary, Otis R. Bowen, made the proposal in late January. The proposal would add AIDS to a list of contagious diseases that are grounds for exclusion under the Immigration and Naturalization Act. Currently, the act excludes people with tuberculosis, leprosy, and five sexually transmitted diseases, including syphilis and gonorrhea.

The preamble to the formal proposal calls for the use of blood tests for HTLV-III antibody and virus in AIDS. According to Chuck Kline of HHS, the blood of applicants for permanent-resident status would be tested for contagious diseases; if it came up positive on the antibody test, the blood would be tested for the virus. Supposedly, the presence of the virus in blood would be grounds for denying permanent-resident status.

Kline said that the material in the preamble is more suggestion than proposal, that it would not change any existing regulation, and would therefore have to be formally implemented separately from the proposed classification of AIDS as a contagious disease, and that the department is calling for public comment on the use of what he calls "the AIDS blood test" in screening for the syn-

drome.

HHS is not unanimous in calling for tests for HTLV-III antibody and virus "AIDS blood tests," however. Dr. Tom Peterman, of HHS' Centers for Disease Control (CDC), said that "The ELISA [the HTLV-III antibody test] and the Western Blot [the HTLV-III virus test] are tests for blood, not tests for AIDS." Peterman went on to say that only five to 15 percent of those who test positive on the rigorous Western Blot test develop full-blown AIDS within five years of testing. He would not comment on whether the CDC supports Bowen's proposal.

"HTLV-III tests are not diagnostic of AIDS," according to Shirley Barth of HHS' Public Health Service (PHS). Barth said that although the PHS suggested that people with AIDS be excluded from the country, it did not suggest that HTLV-III tests be used in such exclusions. Instead, Barth said, PHS had suggested that "AIDS cases be excluded through physical examinations," that is, clinical determinations as to whether a person has AIDS.

Barth was unwilling to comment as to whether the PHS supports Bowen's proposal. "I can't discuss what we do internally," Barth said, "and anyway, putting forth the proposal is the secretary's decision."

Jane Rocamora, director of the National Lawyers Guild's National Immigration Project, told GCN she is not only critical of the use of HTLV-III testing as a diagnostic tool, but also of the intent of Bowen's proposal. Rocamora said, "The proposed regulation seems totally inappropriate, because as I understand it, AIDS is not a contagious dis-

ease as that term is meant in the [Immigration and Naturalization] act."

Jeff Levi, of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, said that although AIDS may technically qualify as a contagious disease under the immigration act, there are additional problems with the proposal. "The reality is that people are leaving the United States to seek treatment for AIDS; people

aren't coming here," said Levi. He continued, "One real danger of this proposal is that other countries, France in particular, might take retaliatory measures against the United States, might exclude people with AIDS." Levi is referring to the fact that some wealthier citizens of the United States have gone to France seeking treatments for AIDS not available here.

Levi said "there is no health

threat" from people with AIDS entering the United States, given the very particular conditions under which the disease is believed to be spread. "If anything, there is a possible financial burden that the government would have to bear," said Levi. "But people applying for permanent residency have to demonstrate employment possibilities, means of self-

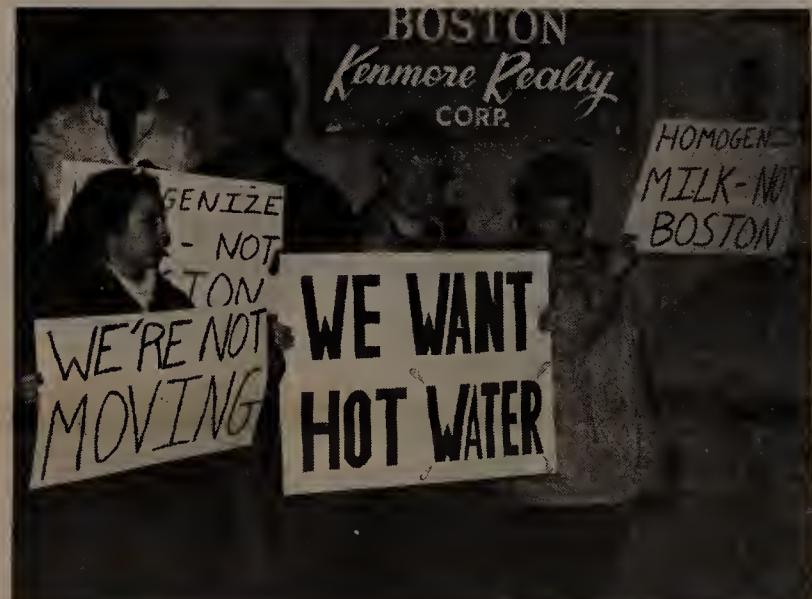
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Lesbian & Gay Tenants Rally against Eviction

By Kim Westheimer

BOSTON — Tenants of the Buckminster Hotel rooming house in Kenmore Square, including a number of gay men and lesbians, are fighting what they see as illegal efforts to evict them, poor living conditions, and sexual harassment. They claim that many of these problems are due to their landlord's desire to transform the boarding house into high-rent luxury apartments or condominiums. In a demonstration and press conference on February 6, members of the newly formed Buckminster Tenants Association, an affiliate of the Massachusetts Tenants Organization (MTO), outlined their grievances against their landlords, Edmund and Albert Shamsi.

Tenants said the rooming house was removed from the rental market six months ago, and that the entire sixth floor has since been vacated. Of the approximately 164 units in the building, roughly half are vacant. Many tenants vacated their rooms after the management



Buckminster tenants protest, Feb. 6, Boston.

told them they would face eviction if they did not move. In addition, a number of tenants, who claim to have paid their rent in full, have received eviction notices for non-payment of rent.

Tenants have also been told that they have to move from one floor to another so that the landlords can renovate their old apartments. Donald Hoffman, of the Tenant Landlord Project in City Hall, told GCN this demand is illegal. Hoffman also said that the tenants' last rent increase exceeded the 12.5% Cost Price Index (C.P.I.). It is illegal to raise rents in low- to moderate-income units more than the C.P.I. Tenants plan to appeal this increase to the Boston Rent Equity Board.

At the press conference, Brian Clague, a tenant, said rooming house occupants have been without hot water for sixteen days during the last three months. He also said there have been numerous false fire alarms, creating a danger in the event of a real fire, and that the building is infested with rats and roaches. Furthermore, the building's manager, Adolf Bauer, frequently enters rooms without giving sufficient time after knocking for residents to get out of bed or out of the bathroom, said Clague.

"He's [Edmund Shamsi] got so much money," added one lesbian expressing frustration at the situation. "Most people here can't afford to move out and he's forcing them out."

Edmund Shamsi denies the tenants' charges. He told GCN that the building is in good shape, while admitting that there have been problems with the hot water

boiler. These problems, he said, were beyond his control and due to a faulty system that was purchased five years ago. Shamsi claimed he spent \$15,000 in the past six months for repairs on the boiler.

Shamsi, who owns at least ten other apartment buildings in Boston, is planning to renovate vacant apartments in the building and to add kitchenettes. He told GCN that he had no idea what increases in rent would result from this, but that he only plans to renovate as old tenants move out. He denied that tenants received false eviction notices.

Alleging that the tenant organizing is the result of a political power play, Shamsi told GCN, "Mr. David Sondras [gay Boston city councillor] and MTO are gaining from this." Shamsi continued, "He's [Sondras] pro-tenant. The more property owners that are put into a bad light, the more power to him."

Rosemary Whiting, a constituent serviceperson in Sondras' office, told GCN that Clague called her in November of 1985 asking for information about condominium conversion laws. Concerned with Clague's fear that a rooming house might be converted to condominiums, Whiting referred Clague to MTO. "Rooming houses have been going off the market rapidly in Boston," said Whiting. "But they are essential to low-income people, including students, elderly, and the handicapped. If the city closes down rooming houses there are going to be a lot of people on the street."

MTO, in addition to helping tenants at the Buckminster, in 1985

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Long Guang Huang victory a model for organizing

Transsexual Charges Boston Police Brutality

By Kim Westheimer

BOSTON — Sabrina Von Butz, self-identified as transsexual, is formally pressing charges of physical and verbal abuse against a number of Boston police officers. According to Von Butz, s/he was harassed by the police after being robbed outside Prelude, a gay bar here, on February 1.

Von Butz told GCN that at approximately 2:15 a.m., a man grabbed Von Butz's purse, which contained twenty dollars, some food stamps, and a number of identification cards. Spotting two police officers nearby, Von Butz elicited their help in apprehending the thief. For reasons unknown to Von Butz, the officers stopped and talked to the man but did not detain him.

When Von Butz insisted that the officers fill out a police report on the theft, they refused, claiming that they had no writing utensils. According to Von Butz, upon further insistence, the officers forcefully threw Von Butz into a cruiser, saying they were going to the South Station subway stop, where Von Butz would be safer.

Von Butz was not taken to the subway, but instead, to the Area A police station, where s/he

s/he was placed under arrest. S/he was not told what the charges were.

When police officers at the station began questioning Von Butz, they became agitated, according to Von Butz. They dragged Von Butz by the hair to a cell, causing a cut from elbow to wrist. Von Butz's consequent demand for medical attention resulted in further violence from three police officers and two paramedics. Von Butz said s/he was grabbed, thrown down, and stepped on. In addition, the officers and paramedics forcibly checked Von Butz's crotch to see if s/he was a man or a woman.

Convinced that s/he was a man, police allegedly took Von Butz to another cell where s/he was locked up with a man. Von Butz believes that the man, who s/he said "came on to me," was a plant put in the cell by the police to "see what I would do."

Von Butz was released at 7:00 a.m. on the same day. No charges were filed, and police records list Von Butz's detention as "protective custody." Upon release s/he attempted to get back possessions that had been confiscated by the

police. While s/he got back some cash, cosmetics, and jewelry that had been taken, Von Butz told GCN that a ring was missing.

Von Butz faced further harassment when s/he went to the police station with French Wall, an aide to gay Boston City Councillor David Sondras, to get a copy of the police record of the arrest and detention. In response to this request, Von Butz and Wall told GCN that Boston police officer Sergeant Harrington said, "You filed something with Internal Affairs, didn't you. I'm not giving you that." In addition, according to Von Butz and Wall, Harrington turned to another police officer when Von Butz walked in and said disdainfully, "Man, woman, faggot."

Von Butz has filed two complaints with Internal Affairs, a division of the police department responsible for investigating complaints against police officers. One complaint is for verbal and physical harassment by the police officers on the night s/he was detained; the other is against Sgt. Harrington for verbal harassment.

Lieutenant Kenny, a police of-

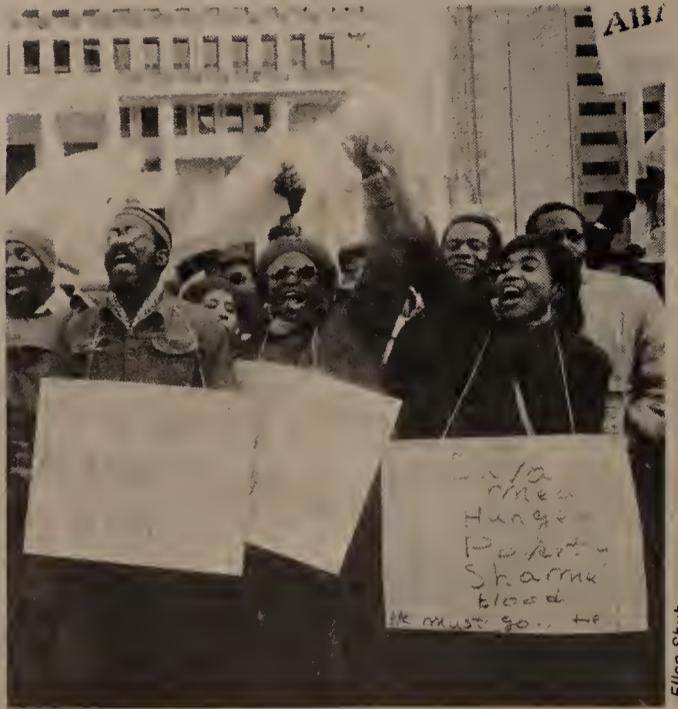
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News Notes

quote of the week

"Due to the number of queers and sub-human mud races located in the [San Francisco] Bay Area the White Student Union has now organized a chapter of straight White Youth under racial lines into a political force."

— from a press release by the White Student Union, an national group headquartered in Sacramento, which regularly leaflets San Francisco neighborhoods with anti-Semitic and anti-Black handbills.



haitians demonstrate as 'baby doc' falls

BOSTON — Above, Haitians demonstrate at City Hall here February 1 as reports of the fall of "Baby Doc" Duvalier continued unsubstantiated. The confirmed demise of the 28-year Duvalier family regime is now greeted with a mixture of hope and suspicion by the people of Haiti; continued involvement by the U.S. government in the affairs of their country is expected, and the interim government council has yet to prove its commitment to "share the wealth" and to allow "free" elections.

While Haitians on the island have confronted violent repression and extreme poverty, Haitian immigrants in the U.S. have faced unemployment, the threat of deportation, and the added stigma of classification as a "high risk" group for AIDS. That classification was rescinded by the Centers for Disease Control in April of last year. (See GCN, Vol. 13, No. 15.) Many Haitians in the U.S. now express optimism they will be able to return to their homeland without reprisal.

— Stephanie Poggi

eight gay men murdered in twin cities

MINNEAPOLIS, MN — Another gay man was found murdered here in late January, bringing to eight the number of gay men shot, strangled, and stabbed to death in the Twin Cities in less than two years. The string of gay murders has prompted a call for action by the gay and lesbian community, according to *Equal Times News*. Bar owners have added \$5,000 to the \$5,000 reward currently offered by a "Crime-Stoppers" program for information leading to the arrest of suspects.

Suspects and convicted men in several of the cases fit a pattern, according to Deputy Police Chief Patrick Farrell. All are white males age 18-21, they are semi-transient, and their victims are middle-aged and older gay men. Farrell said the number of gay men murdered is unquestionably high for a single population group. "If it were teenagers or senior citizens it would be considered a high number," he said.

— Janice Irvine

festival of life

CAMBRIDGE, MA — A week-long series of arts and educational programs will be held at Harvard University and Radcliffe College Feb. 17-23 to benefit research and patient care projects in the fight against AIDS. The Festival of Life — Seven Days for AIDS Research and Care — will benefit the AIDS Action Committee and the New England Deaconess Hospital.

The festival kicks off on Monday, Feb. 17 with "Ovations — Women United for AIDS Research and Care," a gala featuring artists Judy Collins, Joan Kennedy, Jayne Anne Phillips, and Nancy Marchand. "Ovations" will be held at 8 p.m. at the American Repertory Theatre, in Harvard's Loeb Drama Center, 64 Brattle St., Cambridge. Call (617) 547-8300 for more information about "Ovations." For other events, call (617) 495-2663.

— Janice Irvine

sex, politics, and the law

NEW YORK — The New York University Review of Law and Social Change announces a symposium: "Sex, Politics and the Law: Lesbians and Gay Men Take the Offensive." The symposium will be held on Saturday, February 22, 1986, at the NYU School of Law, 40 Washington Square South. Admission is free and there is no pre-registration.

The purpose of the symposium is to formulate the most effective strategy for securing sexual civil rights and liberties for lesbians and gay men. As advocates of a multi-disciplinary approach to social and legal change, the Review of Law and Social Change has invited activists in the fields of history, psychology, health sciences, and law. Speakers will include John D'Emilio, Jewelle Gomez, Nan Hunter, Tom Stoddard, David Sondras, Betty Powell, and many others.

For further information, contact Debra Rothberg or Audre Rabinowitz at the NYU Review of Law and Social Change, (212) 598-3919.

— Debra Rothberg

forums on reproductive technologies

BOSTON — On February 22, an all-day community forum on Women and Reproductive Technologies will be held at U/Mass-Boston. Speakers and workshops will address topics such as in vitro fertilizations, prenatal screening, infertility, and social parenting. Films and videos will be shown, including "The Ultimate Test Animal," a documentary about the injectable contraceptive, depo-provera. One workshop focusing on international issues will be conducted in Spanish. Sign language interpretation will be available for most of the day. Musical entertainment will be provided by Marcia Taylor.

Co-sponsors of the event are: Women and Reproductive Technologies Group, Boston Women's Health Book Collective, Reproductive Rights National Network (Boston Group), and Boston Self-Help Center.

There is no admission fee and the conference will be held from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at U/Mass-Boston (corner of Stuart and Arlington Sts.). Childcare must be reserved by Feb. 13.

HARTFORD, CT — The new reproductive technologies will be the focus of a conference sponsored by the Women's Research Institute of Hartford College for Women. The day-long conference, "High-Tech Baby-making: Its Technology and Social, Ethical, and Legal Implications," will be held on March 14. It is the first conference of its kind in this country. Keynote speakers are Gena Corea, author of *The Mother Machine*, and Dr. Barbara Katz Rothman, a City University of New York sociologist and author of *The Tentative Pregnancy*.

Attendance at the conference is limited. Registration before February 26 will be \$42, after that date, \$47. Special student rates are available. For further information, contact Sharon Toffey Shepela, director, Women's Research Institute, Hartford College for Women, 50 Elizabeth St., Hartford, CT 06105. (203) 236-5838.

— Janice Irvine

terrigno trial delayed

WEST HOLLYWOOD, CA — The trial of lesbian former mayor and current council member Valerie Terrigno, under indictment for embezzlement, has been postponed from January 7 to March 11, according to Assistant U.S. Attorney Richard Callahan. Both Callahan and defense attorney Howard Weitzman are involved in unrelated, lengthy court cases.

Terrigno, the first mayor of this city which has a large lesbian and gay population, was indicted October 23 on charges of embezzling funds while executive director of Crossroads Counseling Services, a social service agency. (See GCN, Vol. 13, No. 22.) In mid-December, an article written by Sandy Dwyer and Aslan Brooke for the Philadelphia Gay News provided new information about the financial condition of Crossroads, which, observers believe, may have an impact on the trial. The copyrighted story disclosed a series of alleged financial improprieties that existed at the agency prior to Terrigno's tenure. This information, obtained directly from Crossroads documents, contradicts statements made by Crossroads founder Morris Kight, who has figured prominently as a news source in the case. No Crossroads officials who worked prior to Terrigno have been charged with any crime, prompting accusations that Terrigno was singled out for politically motivated prosecution.

Terrigno has continued to serve on the city council. Efforts to organize a defense fund have been thwarted by delays in a state determination as to whether election laws would be violated by setting up such a fund for an elected official.

— Gordon Gottlieb

greet rambo feb. 18

CAMBRIDGE, MA — Actor/director Sylvester Stallone is coming to Cambridge on Tuesday, Feb. 18 to receive the "Man of the Year" award from the Hasty Pudding Theatrical Club of Harvard University. Hasty Pudding is honoring Stallone, who created and portrays on-screen "Rocky" Balboa, for "strengthening the bond between himself and the American public, introducing yet another solid and unforgettable character in American cinema."

An ad hoc group of community activists plans to greet Stallone when he receives his award to make known their opposition to his glorification of racism, militarism, and sexism. The group has criticized the Rambo film series as "a thinly-disguised product of cold war hysteria that fuels the most base racist, sexist, and militarist reactions" from its viewing audience.

The films have attracted the criticism of Vietnam veterans for exploiting and inaccurately depicting their experience. They have also drawn the condemnation of Asians for the dehumanizing portrayal of faceless and expendable "hordes" conveniently sacrificed in one man's fantasy of being able to "win this time." Needless to say, Stallone's portrayal of male heroes — angry, silent, alone against the world, responding only with a gun or a pair of fists to "foreign" threats — fits not only with Reagan's view of the world, but a distorted and dangerous projection of the "ideal man."

There will be a picket of the Hasty Pudding Theater on Feb. 18 from 5:45 to 6:30 p.m., and a brief rally from 6:30-7 p.m. For more information, call 628-6585.

— Janice Irvine



Danitra Vance, performing March 2, New York

celebrating kitchen table: women of color press

NEW YORK — Kitchen Table invites you to celebrate the press's fifth anniversary and Black History Month at a special benefit reading on February 21. Readers will include Black lesbian poet Cheryl Clarke; poet and executive director of Basement Workshop in New York's Chinatown, Fay Chiang; Caribbean American poet, writer, and visual artist Irene Sabas; and Argentinian writer Luisa Valenzuela. Barbara Smith, co-founder of Kitchen Table, will be the emcee for the event, which will be held at 2 West 64th St., at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$7. For more information, call The Writer's Voice, co-sponsor of the reading, at (212) 787-6557.

On March 2, another benefit for Kitchen Table: Women of Color Press will be held at the Limelight, 6th Avenue at 20th St. The event features Danitra Vance, comic from *Saturday Night Live* and renowned drummer Edwina Lee Tyler, with Jane Galvin-Lewis as emcee.

The Limelight will be open 5-10 p.m., with showtime at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$25 at the door, and there will be a cash bar. For advance tickets, write to Kitchen Table: Women of Color Press at 593 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10021.

— Janice Irvine

'Visibility will save us'

N.H. AIDS Conference Cites Discrimination

By Susan Janicki

CONCORD, NH — Over 150 people attended a conference February 8, titled "AIDS: Facts and Issues" at the Unitarian Universalist Church here. The day-long conference was presented by the New Hampshire Citizens' Alliance for Gay and Lesbian Rights (CAGLR), a statewide group founded last year to, as moderator Susan Bruce said, "provide a forum to educate ourselves and the community."

The conference covered three main topics surrounding the AIDS crisis: medical facts, community resources, and lifestyle issues. Concurrent workshops providing additional information about safe sex, medical considerations, women and AIDS, and the state AIDS Action Line were scheduled for the last hour of the program.

Initiating the community resources segment of the conference, Kevin Cathcart, executive director of the Boston-based Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders

(GLAD), spoke forcefully about the increasing discrimination against people with AIDS. Cathcart said discrimination is focused on three groups of people — people with AIDS, people who test positive for the HTLV-III antibody, and gay men in general. The two major areas of discrimination involve denial of medical care and dismissal from jobs because of an AIDS diagnosis or because of being gay. In addition, some insurance companies are using "red-lining" tactics by not selling insurance in areas with large gay populations and not issuing policies to single men.

Less common, but joining the discrimination forces, are the school systems that deny children with AIDS the right to attend school. Cathcart cited a case in which the brother of a child with AIDS was denied the right to attend school.

Cathcart also attacked the use of HTLV-III antibody testing as a

vehicle for discrimination, and said the best way to prevent such discrimination in the gay male community is to refuse to take the test.

Several states, including New Hampshire, have civil rights laws that protect citizens on the basis of "handicapped" status. AIDS has qualified as a handicap under such laws, which, according to Cathcart, have been used to protect people with AIDS from discrimination. The main problem is the snail-like process of the court system, Cathcart said, making discrimination suits hard to pursue for someone who may already be very ill.

"If you're a gay man, get insurance now — all you can afford before it's too late," Cathcart advised in his summing-up. Gay men should also make arrangements for a living will and choose someone to have power of attorney, he added.

Joseph Naughton, a counselor at Gay and Lesbian Supportive Services, stressed the need for education and support for people with AIDS, AIDS-related complex (ARC), and those tested as antibody-positive. He also expressed concern for "the worried well, those who are so afraid of contracting AIDS that they have increased stress and feelings associated with being gay."

Mark Miller, an AIDS hospice worker, encouraged people to examine their own health status before coming in contact with someone who has a suppressed immune system, since even a common cold could become lethal to someone with AIDS.

Stressing the need for education and sexual behavior changes, Joyce Cournoyer, assistant

epidemiologist for the state of New Hampshire, said New Hampshire has ten cases of AIDS and a low rate of people testing antibody-positive.

Marty Cicchinelli, state public health coordinator of the STD (sexually transmitted disease) program, urged people to be tested for the HTLV-III antibody. "It has a good predictive value, and could be helpful in changing behavior that would keep New Hampshire a low-prevalence state," she claimed.

Clay Stephens, a physician's assistant from the Fenway Community Health Center in Boston, said she was "pro-sex" and urged the eroticization of safe sex for everybody "every time, all the time, any time."

In an emotional presentation, Philip Broff, a New Hampshire

man diagnosed with AIDS, spoke eloquently about the impact of the disease on his life. "It can be done," he said. "Living with this has brought months of despair and weeping, but I have learned so much, and am speaking here to suggest there is hope and options. Most importantly, I am not a victim."

John Mazzulo, a physician at Tufts New England Medical Hospital and a member of the Boston AIDS Task Force, closed the presentations with a quote by lesbian activist Ginny Apuzzo: "Remember, they are never victims. They are patients sometimes, but people always." Mazzulo urged gay men and lesbians to come out and to help educate others about AIDS. "Visibility will save us," he said.

Buckminster Tenants

Continued from page 1

helped organize occupants of a Mission Hill building owned by Shamsi. Bob Van Meter, a MTO organizer, told *GCN* that Shamsi had been trying to evict low-income tenants of that building in order to renovate the building for luxury apartments. Many tenants succeeded in blocking eviction due to organizing efforts.

Although it was not addressed in the press conference, two tenants who asked not to be identified told *GCN* that the building manager, Adolf Bauer, frequently harasses women and gay men in the building. One woman said that Bauer has made rude, leering com-

ments to her a number of times, including remarks such as, "Why don't you put some clothes on?" A gay man who lives in the building said that Bauer had entered his room without his knowledge and had looked through some gay magazines to which Bauer later referred with derogatory statements, including comments such as, "Why don't you get a rich old man to take care of you?" Bauer could not be reached for comment.

Edmund Shamsi has agreed to meet with three representatives of the Buckminster Tenants Association to discuss their grievances.

Police Abuse

Continued from page 1

ficer at area A who is in charge of the Internal Affairs initial investigation, told *GCN* that within two weeks the investigation should be completed. After this initial investigation, the case goes to officials within Internal Affairs for review. Final decisions on Internal Affairs cases are frequently made by Boston City Police Commissioner Francis Roache.

One out of five complaints to Internal Affairs is sustained, according to Arthur Morgan, deputy superintendent for Internal Affairs. Last year, 302 complaints were registered, causing ten police officers to lose their jobs. Other police officers are merely given verbal reprimands for violating police rules and regulations.

In an attempt to get legal help with the case, Von Butz solicited help from Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders (GLAD) and the Massachusetts Civil Liberties Union (MCLU). She has had no response from GLAD, which could not be reached by *GCN* for comment on the case.

Von Butz received a letter rejecting the request from the MCLU.

HTLV-III Test Exclusion

Continued from page 1

support." Given these realities, Levi admitted "it's hard to understand why HHS has made this proposal."

HHS is not alone in its efforts to exclude people with AIDS, and to do so using tests designed for blood. The Department of Defense is testing all recruits and active duty personnel for HTLV-III antibody, in what they say is an attempt to limit the spread of AIDS in the military. Insurance companies across the country are seeking to deny coverage to people with AIDS, and are often seeking HTLV-III tests as a diagnostic tool.

Further, unconfirmed reports have reached *GCN* that the

letter stated that although the case may be meritorious, due to limited resources the MCLU can only "take on those few [cases] that seem to have very broad implications to the public."

"It's just a judgment call," said Marjorie Hines of the MCLU. "We get 20 to 30 requests [for legal assistance] a week." Hines told *GCN* that she assumed that police brutality is a common problem for transsexuals but that for the MCLU it was a question of allocation of resources.

Police brutality is in fact a serious problem for transsexuals, according to Von Butz. She hopes to organize transsexuals, lesbians, gay men, and other political activists to respond to this case of police brutality. "From what I understand it [abuse] happens all the time, physically or verbally," said Von Butz. "I'm in the processing stage [of organizing a response]. I talked to people in Jacques [a Boston gay bar frequented by drag queens], and harassment happens very frequently with the Boston Police Department and queens and transsexuals."

Shirley Mark Yuen, a member of the Committee to Support Long Guang Huang, a group formed in response to the beating of a Chinese immigrant by a Boston police officer, told *GCN* that community pressure is essential in cases of police brutality. In September of 1985, after much organizing and many delays, police officer Francis Kelly, accused of beating up Huang, was found guilty and suspended from the force without pay for one year. Huang was hospitalized for a week due to the assault, and is still feeling physical repercussions from the beating.

Although many activists believe that the one-year suspension was not sufficient, the case is seen as a victory because Kelly was found guilty and Huang was acquitted of charges of assaulting a police officer. "Historically, Asians have never gotten anything without organizing. This [the suspension] would never have happened without the efforts of the Defense Committee," said Yuen. "I would urge this person [Von Butz] to organize," she added.

(OMB) and the Justice Department, which administers the Immigration and Naturalization Service. If approved by these agencies, the NPRM will be printed in the federal register. After its printing, the public will have 60 days to comment on the proposal. After this, the proposal can be approved, and re-published in the federal register with a specific date on which it is effective.

Kline said "it shouldn't take long" until the OMB and Justice Department approve the proposal. Levi said that once the proposed regulation is published, NGLTF will begin a formal lobbying campaign to defeat the proposal.

— filed from Boston

Randall Fights Deportation

"It may no longer only be a 'crime' to be poor, Black, Hispanic, Native American, gay or a woman...but a crime as well to speak out for the poor, for Blacks, for Hispanics, for Native Americans or gays or women...."

— Margaret Randall, from a journal entry, October 8, 1985

By Anne Phibbs

Albuquerque, NM — Margaret Randall, well-known poet, photographer, political activist, and author of forty books including *Cuban Women Now*, *Sandino's Daughters*, *Christians in the Nicaraguan Revolution*, and *Women Brave in the Face of Danger* was denied permanent-resident status in the U.S. October 2 on the grounds that her writings violate the McCarran-Walter Act. Randall was then ordered to leave the country by October 30, 1985. In response, she has appealed the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) decision and filed, on October 29, a federal lawsuit against U.S. Attorney General Edwin Meese and the INS. Joining the suit are many authors, including Alice Walker, Toni Morrison, Kurt Vonnegut, Grace Paley, and Arthur Miller.

Randall's troubles with the INS began in 1984 when, after living for 23 years in Mexico, Cuba, and Nicaragua, she returned to Albuquerque, New Mexico, where she had grown up. Randall had become a Mexican citizen in 1967 because it increased her chances of employment there, and had renounced her U.S. citizenship on the erroneous advice of a lawyer. Upon arrival in the U.S., she immediately filed for permanent-resident (or "Green Card") status. Under U.S. law, Randall merits top priority for resident status because her parents, husband, and one of her children are all U.S. citizens. Instead of the usual 60-day processing period, however, Randall's application was held up for a year and a half, during which time she and her husband each went through two lengthy interviews with the INS.

To deny Randall's application for residency, the INS is using the McCarthy-era McCarran-Walter Act, which excludes those people from the U.S. whose works advocate communism, anarchism, or opposition to "organized" government, or who have associated with Marxists or

"subversives." This act has 33 provisions which exclude people from entering or staying in the U.S. The INS ruling on October 2 stated that Randall's writings "go far beyond mere dissent, disagreement or criticism of United States policies." Other excluded writers who, like Randall, have held political views not compatible with the U.S. government include Graham Greene, Gabriel Garcia Marquez, (Sra.) Hortensia Allende, and Farley Mowat.

At present, Randall is allowed to stay in the U.S. while her case is in the appeals process. She has her first hearing before an immigration judge on March 17 in El Paso, Texas. Randall's lawsuit, brought by the Center for Constitutional Rights with the American Civil Liberties Union, charges that the McCarran-Walter Act violates the First and Fifth Amendments to the Constitution because it allows the U.S. government to exclude immigrants whose ideological views differ from those of the government and because the Act fails to guarantee due process and equal protection for all applicants.

Randall, who is currently teaching American Studies and Women's Studies at the University of New Mexico, is supported in the Boston area by a committee formed last October to do fundraising for her legal expenses and to promote awareness of her situation, according to committee member Deborah Wald. The Boston Committee to Defend Margaret Randall will hold a benefit on Sunday, March 9 at 7:30 p.m. at the Mass. College of Art Auditorium, 625 Huntington Ave., Boston. Margaret Randall will be there, as will the Crowsfeet Dance Collective (former members of the Wallflower Order), with music by Flor de Caña. For more information about this benefit, call Deborah Wald at (617) 482-1145 or 492-4890.

To learn more about Margaret Randall's case, or to make a contribution toward offsetting her legal expenses, write: Margaret Randall Legal Defense Committee, c/o Center for Constitutional Rights, 853 Broadway, 14th Floor, New York, NY 10003 or Boston Committee to Defend Margaret Randall, P.O. Box 2227, Cambridge, MA 02238. — filed from Boston

Editorial

Queries for Queers

Drafts of this week's centerspread on a gay conservative group — Concerned Americans for Individual Rights (C.A.I.R.) — prompted a passionate discussion among *GCN*'s staff about what *GCN* is or should be, and where our movement is headed.

GCN's anti-racism plan, our masthead, and job advertisements state a clear political purpose — to work toward gay and lesbian liberation, with a commitment to anti-racism, anti-classism, and feminism. Yet, while the staff collective and membership of the paper agree on broad issues of focus, individuals' priorities differ greatly; such differences reflect our gender, color, and class backgrounds, as well as our political perspectives. We have reached no clear consensus on how to address the issue of class in our pages, or on what political strategies lead to gay/lesbian liberation, although our stated policies define such liberation as integrally connected to other struggles.

Our varying perspectives play a role in weekly decision-making at the paper. We do not always agree on whether a particular letter to *GCN* or "Speaking Out" submission constitutes a personal attack, the only criterion — besides length — by which it could currently be excluded. And despite this policy, some staff members feel uncomfortable printing all other letters unedited, especially those some of us believe are bigoted.

Articles raise somewhat different questions, since we do expect to evaluate and edit their content. Staff editors could never print every submission they receive, and their jobs involve not only editing for grammar and clarity, but making choices about the type and direction of articles. And while our hands-off policy for the "Community Voices" pages is clearly stated, readers may incorrectly assume that all *GCN* staff members concur with the content or appropriateness of particular articles in other sections of the paper.

Specific issues raised by the evolution of the C.A.I.R. piece include:

- Whether *GCN* should be a "forum" — either a "forum" for all

lesbians and gay men regardless of their political perspective or a "forum" specifically for progressive and radical community members, many of whom have supported *GCN* because of its feminist, anti-racist politics;

- Whether *GCN* should be an *advocate*, either for a radical lesbian and gay movement for liberation or for a more moderate agenda of "civil rights";
- Whether *GCN* can be both a "forum" and an advocate;
- What the role is for conservative gay men and lesbians at *GCN*;
- Whether allowing conservative views an uncritical place in the paper would jeopardize both our liberation movement and the people most marginalized within that movement, in particular, working-class lesbians and gay men, lesbians and gay men of color, and women;
- How best to present views of which many of us are critical: e.g., to lay out the views without commentary, for readers to judge; to present opposing views on a controversial subject; etc.;
- Whether we cut off discussion and debate in our pages if we reject articles that articulate positions many of us consider offensive or dangerous.

Directly related to all of these issues are broader questions Art Cohen broaches in his article: Is it useful or even possible for a single gay/lesbian movement to exist, unifying us solely through our "sexual preference"? Should radical and conservative queers form coalitions with one another? Is it possible to build coalitions that are enriched by our varied backgrounds and politics — even when these sometimes include contradictory agendas, or mutually exclusive goals? These questions are crucial to the political direction of *GCN* and to our movement as a whole, and are not likely to be resolved quickly, easily, or quietly. We encourage reader response, either in letters or "Speaking Outs."

GCN editorials reflect the views of the paid, full-time staff collective.

GayCommunityNews

Cover photo by Andrea Herman

Gay Community News is produced by a collective dedicated to providing coverage of events and news in the interest of gay and lesbian liberation. The collective consists of a paid staff of eleven, a general membership of volunteers, and a board of directors elected by the membership. The paper is published weekly (except a week in December and a week in August) by the Bromfield Street Education Foundation, Inc., a non-profit corporation.

Opinions reflected in "editorials" represent the views of the paid staff collective. Signed letters and columns represent the views and opinions of the authors only. We encourage all readers to send us comments, criticism, and information, and to volunteer and become members.

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GCN Job Openings

Typesetter/Writer (available March): Typeset articles and other copy for weekly paper. Write news and/or features. **Qualifications:** Typesetting experience, pref. on Compugraphic Editwriter, and strong writing skills. Good knowledge of spelling, grammar, and punctuation.

Coordinating Editor (available April-May): Coordinate the paper's overall administrative/financial affairs and fundraising activities. Prepare editorial/letters pages. Serve as liaison with board, and, as necessary, serve as paper's spokesperson. **Qualifications:** Strong administrative, organizational, and interpersonal skills. Familiarity with *GCN* helpful.

All *GCN* positions require a commitment to gay/lesbian liberation, feminism, anti-racist/anti-classist politics, and the collective decision-making process. **Salary/Benefits:** Both full-time positions pay \$160/wk + fully paid health/life insurance, sick leave, and four weeks' paid vacation. *GCN* offers staff members responsibility for their own jobs and participation in all major decisions, with some flexibility and ample room for innovation.

To apply, please send resume ASAP to: Search Committee, *GCN*, 167 Tremont St., Boston, MA 02111.

Gay men/lesbians of color particularly encouraged to apply

and throughout a vast portion of the earth.) Work for social change, however, must and does take place on many different fronts. Right-wing critics often attempt to discredit specifically focussed progressive movements (such as that for economic withdrawal from South Africa) by pointing out the existence of other reprehensible situations which might be addressed.

The widespread nature of political and social repression does not, however, invalidate strategically targeted progressive activism and, at any rate, critics can be certain that, no matter what particular movement they may be most aware of at a given time, there are always activists working for the elimination of repression wherever it occurs. Similarly, Peter Reed can rest assured that, just as there are those working for the change of *Coors*' practices, there are those, too, who work for the elimination of the anti-environmental practices of oil companies (many of whom choose *not* to drive cars) and, further, for the transformation of the economic system in which these offensive corporations thrive.

Reed asks whether the gay community doesn't have "more important items on its agenda"; if he cannot see the link between consumer support for such a profoundly offensive corporation as *Coors* and the continued systematic oppression of lesbians and gays, straight women, people of color, and a host of others, then there are at least two agenda items about which we must be even more diligent: The education of people about the interconnectedness of various oppressions and exploitative practices; and the loud assertion that attitudes like Reed's, simultaneously naive and cynical, have no place within the movement.

Thomas E. Freedman
Madison, WI
Phillip Brian Harper
Ithaca, NY

stupidity scars

Dear *GCN*,

I have seen many articles about gay prisoners being harassed, locked down, transferred, etc.

I myself have been through the same. I've been harassed so much that I attempted to take my life. I now bear the scars that once held 85 stitches. But I learned something from that. I now call them stupidity scars. Every time I look at them it reminds me of how stupid I was.

We know that gays are mostly rejected in prison and in the free world. They think we dirty up their (clean, sweet strait) world. (They know better!) So they look for ways to push us over the edge of sanity. They get a nut [get off] when they see one of us going off [the deep end].

In here when prison guards or inmates harass you, call you names, etc, they want you to go off or do something stupid that would give them an "excuse" to put you down somehow. With us gays out of the main population, they self-righteously feel they've cleaned up the track.

Don't play their game. Play your own games, with your rules (when you can). It fucks them up when they see that their attempts to provoke you have failed. When someone calls me a faggot, queer, etc, I say, "Thank you. It's nice to be recognized."

It may not stop the harassment completely but it will slow it down. When someone knows they hit a nerve by calling you names, they know they have a weapon to work with. Don't give them weapons to beat you with. Think about it.

Sincerely,
Cory Sharp
Box 430, 118720
Dillwyn, VA 23936

Defense Committee Update

The next coordinating committee meeting of the Gay and Lesbian Defense Committee will be Tuesday, February 25 at 37 Pleasant St. in Cambridge. New members should arrive at 7 p.m. for an orientation; the meeting starts at 7:30 p.m. Call Laurie during the day at 426-4469 for details.... Mark your calendars: A GLDC benefit with Tom Wilson-Weinberg and Romanovsky & Phillips on Saturday, March 1, 8 p.m. at the Arlington Street Church. Tickets are \$4.... GLDC is still fundraising to meet its legal and operations expenses. Contributions made out to GLDC can be sent to P.O. Box 225, West Somerville, MA 02144. Thanks to everyone who has already contributed.... For more information about all GLDC activities, call their hotline at 628-6007.

keeping the heat on the corporations

Dear *GCN*:

The cynicism displayed in Peter Reed's letter regarding the *Coors* beer boycott (1/11/86) is equalled only by the apparent shallowness of his political analysis; both are disturbing. There is no point in outlining here how *Coors*' practices threaten the civil rights of all its current and prospective employees, or the ways that the corporation seeks to extend its repressive influence over those of us who are not directly affiliated with it. This information has been made readily available through *GCN*. What is important is that we not adopt Peter Reed's defeatist outlook, which is based on the admittedly accurate perception of the magnitude of private corporations' social irresponsibility. Such an attitude insidiously undermines worthwhile efforts to overcome this irresponsibility and callously ignores the efforts of those who have organized successful boycotts (witness the recently ended *Nestle* boycott or, more dramatic and less clearly anti-“corporate,” the boycott by Blacks of the Montgomery, Alabama bus system in the 1950s).

None of the *Coors* boycott organizers, surely, is so naive as to think that change in the practices of one corporation will miraculously bring about change in the practices of other offensive companies, all of which are linked by their operation in a profit-oriented capitalist system. (Nor should we be so naive as to think that socially irresponsible practices are necessarily carried out only within capitalism; but capitalism is the system in which corporate abuse takes place in this country.)

Community Voices



GCN welcomes letters to the editor. If possible, they should be **TYPED** and **DOUBLESPACED**, and where possible limited to five typed pages. They should be sent to: Community Voices, *GCN*, 167 Tremont St. #5, Boston, MA 02111.

once again, male equals universal

Dear *GCN*:

I grew accustomed to the mainstream media's uncritical reviews of *Shoah*, but I was angered and saddened that the *GCN* review (February 1, 1986) failed to comment upon the movie's unpardonable flaw: In its entire 9½ hours, there is not one significantly featured woman survivor. This movie, which will be considered a classic Holocaust documentary, allows viewers to believe that there were no women survivors with stories worth telling (or no women survivors at all), that there were no women who resisted inside the death camps, and that there is no unique contribution that a woman survivor could make to our understanding of life and death in the camps. Once again, universal experience has been personified as male.

It is true that more men survived because they were put on work details that women were considered unable to perform. But women did survive the death camps. And women were a vital part of the Resistance, including an action which blew up one of the Auschwitz ovens. You wouldn't know any of this from the movie.

Lanzmann's decision to focus entirely upon men reflects the very patriarchal values which *GCN* strives to destroy. The failure of the media to comment upon this glaring fact further reflects how little impact feminism has had on popular consciousness. *Shoah* is a valuable movie. But its implicit annihilation of the Jewish women who lived and died in the camps is completely inexcusable.

Sincerely,
Nancy Polkoff
Washington, DC

Interim Art Coordinator

GCN seeks a temporary Art Coordinator through early April, beginning immediately. The coordinator is responsible for designing — or assigning to volunteer artists — each week's front cover, center-spread feature, and advertisements, as well as overseeing weekly production.

Qualifications: Strong design sensibility and experience in graphic art and layout; familiarity with *GCN*, the collective's politics and/or process helpful.

Salary: \$160/week. The position affords some independence and involvement in a friendly and provocative work environment.

To apply please call Laurie or Gordon immediately at (617) 426-4469.

legitimizing oppression

Dear *GCN*:

Your policy of not printing personal attacks is a good one — so we wonder why you felt it appropriate to print an attack on an entire group of people by running Emma Whitby's letter of February 8. Too often, anti-Semitism, like homophobia, is considered to be an issue about which reasonable people can disagree. Such "liberal" debate gives oppression an arena in which it is accorded the same legitimacy as anti-oppression. Whitby's letter is the most horrifying display of unmasked anti-Semitism we have ever seen in a lesbian/gay or progressive context. She plainly declares that a Jew is a shameful thing to be: "How can a woman be a Jew? In fact, how can a caring, principled human male be a Jew..." We find it hard to imagine comparable statements being printed in a progressive paper about Blacks, Hispanics, or other minority groups.

The issue here is not censorship, but rather your judgment and sensitivity in choosing from your incoming mail that which is worthy of publication. If, as you state, your plan was to print an accompanying editorial on anti-Semitism, it would have been more appropriate to hold the letter until that time instead of printing it in advance as a teaser. We are all too aware that anti-Semitism exists and do not need to sample it in the pages of *GCN*. We ask you to extend your policy of not printing personal attacks by not providing an outlet for the obscene rantings of bigots.

Michael Broder
Rebecca Lillian
Northampton, MA

AIDS Resource List

AIDS Action Committee — 661 Boylston St., Boston, MA 02116, 536-7733.

Education and support group for people with AIDS, their families, lovers, friends, and health care providers. Provides speakers, conducts forums, rap groups, hospice-trained volunteers, hotline information and referrals. Associated with Fenway Community Health Center.

AIDS Action Line — 536-7733 or Massachusetts toll-free AIDS hotline, 1-800-235-2331.

AIDS Action Committee service, information, referrals and befriending about AIDS.

AIDS Hotline — Community Infectious Disease Epidemiology Program, City of Boston, 424-5916.

Staff of public health nurses answer questions about AIDS, make referrals. Collects city-wide data from hospitals on AIDS cases, forwards data to Centers for Disease Control. Officially determines number of cases probable and under investigation.

Fenway Community Health Center — 16 Haviland Street, Boston, MA 02115, 267-7573.

A gay-sensitive health care facility. Hotline information, medical work-ups, diagnosis, referrals, counseling. Participates in research efforts.

Gay and Lesbian Counseling Services — 600 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02111, 542-5188.

Provides individual and group therapy. Groups available for friends and lovers of people with AIDS. (Services provided

without regard for individual's ability to pay.) Counseling and HTLV-III blood screening services for individuals concerned with exposure to the virus associated with AIDS. Co-sponsored with Department of Public Health. (522-4090)

Gay and Lesbian Hotline — 426-9371, Monday-Friday, 6:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m. Provides information on AIDS, makes referrals. Associated with Gay and Lesbian Counseling Services.

Haitian Committee on AIDS in Massachusetts — 177 Harvard Street, Dorchester, MA 02124, 436-2848.

Provides information, referrals, support and emergency assistance to Haitians with AIDS and their families.

Mayor's Committee on AIDS — 709A Boston City Hall, Boston, MA 02201, 725-3307.

Coordinates efforts of federal, state, and city health agencies, produces educational material, collects data on cases, reviews policy. Umbrella organization. Media outlet. Conducts forums and provides speakers, distributes AIDS brochures, referrals.

National Gay Task Force Hotline — 1-800-221-7044.

Toll-free national hotline run by NGTF to provide information and referrals.

Springfield Downtown Ministry/Council of Churches — 293 Bridge Street, #205, Springfield, MA 01103-1402, 737-4125.

Counseling and referrals.

whom does *gcn* serve?

Dear *GCN*:

I am writing out of extreme dismay and anger at an editorial policy that allows the pages of *GCN* to be used as a forum for the kind of Jew-hating contained in Emma Whitby's letter (*GCN*, 2/8/86).

The staff note indicating *GCN*'s policy of printing anything not aimed at a specific person or persons suggests at least some awareness on the part of the staff that the letter was inappropriate. The forthcoming editorial promised in the note is not a sufficient response. Future apologies do not eradicate responsibility for what is printed in your pages.

I wonder whether a similarly hate-filled letter about Blacks or Asians or some other racial group would have been printed? Or would *GCN*'s Anti-Racism Committee carry out the duty implied by its name and act against the printing of it? To call the hatred expressed in that letter "anti-Jewish sentiment" is to suggest that it is okay to hate Jews. To suggest that such hatred is mere "sentiment" is to say that burning crosses and burning bodies are not real, that they don't count.

A policy that prints hate-filled diatribes as long as no specific names are mentioned may protect against lawsuits, but does not serve our community, and is ignorant of the truths expressed elsewhere in *GCN*. These truths are that the nature of 'isms and phobias are that they do not distinguish between individuals and the groups to which they belong. These truths recognize that hatred against one is hatred against all, and that hatred against the groups extends to the individual whether they choose to recognize it or not. Denying that such hatred exists will not make it go away, but printing it unchallenged only encourages its growth!

I find it sickly ironic that the letter immediately following *GCN*'s statement of policy contained severe personal slurs against Andrea Dworkin. Where was *GCN*'s policy then? Is it any surprise that Andrea is Jewish? Or is it just another example of *GCN*'s unacknowledged anti-Semitism?

In general, I have a great deal of respect for *GCN*'s collective process. I have to question that process when letters such as the two mentioned are printed. I have to question what the presence of an Anti-Racism Committee noted in the masthead really means to a paper that allows itself to be used as a forum for hatred. I have to question a policy that allows letters to be printed that do contain attacks against individuals, on a selective basis.

The editorial owed the readers of *GCN* is not one on "anti-Jewish sentiment." The editorial that we deserve is a clarification of *GCN*'s policies, the role of the Anti-Racism Committee, and a definition of who it is that *GCN* wants to serve — its readers or their destroyers.

Sincerely,
Sara Karon
Medford, MA

how about 'lesbian man'?

Dear *GCN*:

I am hugely offended by James F. Gibbons' letter (2-8-86) in which he proposes that I change my name from lesbian to gay woman. To support his assertion, he includes several paragraphs of poorly digested Kinsey and misunderstood lexicography.

To counter, I am not dehumanized by naming myself lesbian. In fact, my life improved dramatically from the day I began naming myself. As lesbian, I have a long tradition, I have a historical context going back to Mytelini.

Yah-yah about the term lesbian has been a considerable source of argument here, too. Curiously enough, it is gay men who insist that lesbians change our names. I conclude that, for some, lesbian is a threat.

Gibbons has managed to twist logic into a corkscrew to define lesbian as a sexist term. If that were true, then woman would likewise be a sexist term as it implies a difference from men; child would be an agist term, different from adult; Black a racist term, different from white.

It is perfectly fine, from my perspective, if someone recognizes that there is a difference between me and a gay man. I have problems with those who refuse to recognize the obvious.

Perhaps Mr. Gibbons would be happy to change his name to lesbian man, if a symmetry is what he needs.

Wizard Marks
Minneapolis, MN

an almost completely gay resort

Dear *GCN*:

In response to Name Withheld Upon Request, Minneapolis, MN [*GCN*, Vol. 13, No. 30]: we'd like to clarify the make-up of our clientele. It is true that two foliage seasons ago, our guests were mostly straight. People from all over the world come to the White Mountains for foliage season. Straight people called us before gay people then.

The situation at the Highlands Inn is very different now. We are 95% gay all the time, and 100% women. (We'll probably always have some straight people, particularly in foliage season.) The point is if we hadn't taken straight people two years ago, we would have never survived financially to become what we are now — an almost completely-gay resort. Those who want to vacation only with other gay travellers should ask when we will be all-gay. We'll be up-front with you. And for Name Withheld, come on back for a visit. You'll be very pleasantly surprised.

Judi Hall and Grace Newman
Highlands Inn
Bethlehem, NH

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Wertmuller as Joan Rivers: One of the Boys

Sotto...Sotto. Directed by Lina Wertmuller. Written by Wertmuller and Enrico Oldoini. In Italian, with subtitles. At the Orson Welles in Cambridge.

By Monica Hileman

The Boston *Globe* review said *Sotto...Sotto* was a gentle sex farce with a lesbian theme, "something of a departure for Lina Wertmuller." Hmm, I thought, maybe Lina's turned over a new leaf. Years before, when people were disgusted with her *Swept Away*, I had decided: no more Wertmuller. The last film by her that I went to see had a scene that sticks in my memory: a woman had to choose between letting her television fall on the floor or being raped. She was stuck in a precarious vertical position, her hands out, stretched above her head holding the tottering television, so the man took advantage and climbed on top. That was supposed to be funny. The scenario for *Swept Away* didn't sound too comical, either: an upper-class woman is shipwrecked along with a working-class guy,

who rapes her in what is supposed to be an act of class rebellion.

It's certainly disappointing when one of the very few internationally recognized female directors turns out to be something of a misogynist, especially when she

There are parts of *Sotto...Sotto* that I loved, especially the scenes in the enchanting sculpture garden: a lush, misty place where lesbians rendezvous. Ester and Adele take a stroll there one day and realize that the couple kissing

It's disappointing when one of the few internationally recognized female directors turns out to be something of a misogynist.

deals with themes of class and sexual politics. So I was hoping that it was true — that *Sotto...Sotto* was different.

in the distance are not a man and a woman. The two friends stand transfixed, staring at the two women in awe. And longing. Later that night, as her husband Oscar sings a love song, Ester gazes across at Adele with eyes glazed with desire.

Ester is a voluptuous blonde: beautiful, but her head is all full of the movies she watches on TV. We don't know much more about her. We know even less about the lovely Adele. The person we do know about is Oscar. The film follows him around as he's fishing, talking to a seductive, mysterious mute woman about the joys of woodworking, working in the furniture shop, clowning around with the guys (he breaks into a tap-dance in one scene), and worrying about Ester's lack of attentiveness. He even shaves off his beard to spark a little interest. Ester doesn't notice but ends up making passionate love with him on the roof after being aroused by the sight of Adele in the arms of a lover.

Naturally, Oscar is upset when, after this feverish roof-top sex, he takes his wife back to bed and she tells him that he doesn't exist, that actually she was making love to someone else. Oscar storms out of the house and spends the rest of the night getting sloshed, repeating over and over, "all women are whores."

The rest of the film is Oscar's maniacal search for the identity of his wife's fantasy lover. When he finds out that it's a woman, he's upset and disgusted. There's a funny bit when Ester sends him on a detour to a convent, but Oscar's operatic outrage gets tiresome and the comedy goes sour when he gets violent. When he comes home, slaps her around, and tries to rape her, Ester runs to the arms of Adele. The big joke is that although Ester has only committed adultery in her imagination, word has gotten around that Oscar is a cuckold — due to all the commotion he's made. He chases Ester to Adele's house and forces his way in, insulting the women. When he realizes the object of his wife's desire has been under his nose all along, he slaps them both around and tries to rape Adele.

Wertmuller presents Oscar as a jerk — but a likeable jerk. The *Continued on page 10*

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Wertmuller's Noisy Subtlety

By Loie Hayes

Sotto...Sotto bills itself as a romantic comedy. I'd call it a farce of heterosexual fate where straight women are laughed at for thinking a lesbian attraction is "an impossible love" and straight men are laughed at for being bumbling bully-boys.

The action centers in Rome with macho Oscar suddenly confronted by his wife Ester's falling in love with her friend Adele. You might think of it as an Italian feminist version of *Desperately Seeking Susan*: the guy's a clod, the wife has withdrawn into fantasy, and her obsession with another woman is her ticket to a new sense of self-worth and independence.

Of course, filmmaker Lina Wertmuller doesn't exclude the women from her broad-ranging parody, though it's their fear of lesbianism she mocks, rather than lesbianism itself. As the camera lingers on two classically pretty, long-haired lesbians laughing and kissing, Ester and Adele are shown staring in amazement. Too bad Oscar's noisy *angst* overshadows Wertmuller's subtle (*sotto*) portrait of Ester and Adele.

Wertmuller is known for her controversial films mixing class and gender conflict. In



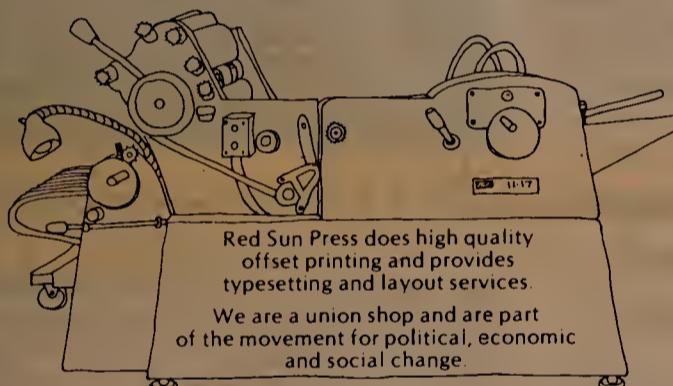
(l-r) Ester, Rosa, and Adele react to the sight of two women kissing in Lina Wertmuller's *Sotto...Sotto*.

Sotto...Sotto Wertmuller has put aside the issue of class in favor of a simpler focus on the dynamics of sexism. As with her other films, it's difficult to understand clearly where Wertmuller stands in relation to her characters. On the one hand she seems to be laughing out loud at Oscar's homophobia and brutality; on the other, she shows great sympathy for him. In the end

Continued on page 11

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Gay Conservatism — Personal Freedom

By Art Cohen

"When I first started coming out, I even was working at *Gay Community News*. I read some of the things and I didn't agree with them. It said to me, 'Do I really fit in here? Am I really gay?'"

Bob Ebersole holds three elected positions in the central Massachusetts town of Lunenberg: town clerk, treasurer, and tax collector. Ebersole classifies himself politically as "moderate to conservative". That he felt out of place in the gay/lesbian rights struggle, which in its early days was led mostly by people who thought of themselves as radical, is understandable. That's why Ebersole has joined with other conservative gay people to form *Concerned Americans for Individual Rights* (C.A.I.R.). Ebersole is a member of C.A.I.R.'s national board of directors and is also the chairperson for its New England chapter. Founders of C.A.I.R. include such prominent gay and lesbian conservatives as former Maryland Congressman Robert Bauman, Virginia businesswoman Bonnie McGinley, and Leonard Matlovich, the former Air Force sergeant who first challenged the military's ban on homosexuality.

The organization was formed in advance of the 1984 Republican National Convention in Dallas. Its founders felt that lesbians and gay men were taking a rather strong beating at the hands of the New Right and other conservatives. C.A.I.R.'s president, Bruce Decker, told a Dallas newspaper, "The organization was formed because there's been a tremendous frustration out there among moderate to conservative gays who have had to sit on the sidelines and watch a more liberal element being presented as our representatives." Both Decker and Ebersole recently talked with GCN about their organization.

Only under a limited and frugal government, a market economy, and a social structure based on free and voluntary association can we as gay and lesbian Americans fully be ourselves...."

But board member Bob Ebersole acknowledges a debt to the more liberal and radical lesbians and gay men who have gone before. "I appreciate what the gay community has done over the past years. The traditional liberals have put their jobs on the line and have gotten fired, to the point where I, as a somewhat conservative person, can come out with a certain degree of security.... We are getting to the point now where we can have the support to do what we are doing and to be open about it also. If they hadn't done what they did, if they hadn't had the courage and compassion to take the steps that were taken, none of us would be where we are today."

It has always seemed to me that to be openly gay is to be radical by definition, because lesbian and gay liberation challenges so many of the fundamental teachings and values of our culture. But there is a difference between the social radicalism involved in coming out of the closet and the political and economic radicalism of many lesbian and gay leaders. It is this difference that C.A.I.R. wants to highlight.

"Our organization is not an attempt to supplant the traditional liberal organizations," says Ebersole. "It's in addition to. It's not saying you [liberal groups] shouldn't exist anymore, because within the gay community each organization has its own purpose. There are a certain number of people out there that do not have this outlet for conservative to moderate [gay/lesbian organizing]."

Decker is a defender of Ronald Reagan. "Ronald

"One of the things we have been very successful at," says Decker, "is simply sitting down [with Republicans] and pointing out that Republicanism and bigotry just don't mix."

Bruce Decker runs a California public affairs and political consulting firm. He worked in Richard Nixon's 1972 campaign and in the White House advance office under Gerald Ford. He claims strong ties to both the Reagan administration and that of California Governor George Deukmejian, who appointed Decker to the post of chairman of the California AIDS Advisory Committee.

C.A.I.R. positions itself somewhere between the extreme conservatism of the New Right, which has loudly rejected gay rights, and the liberal and radical elements of the gay community, which C.A.I.R. says tie gay rights to big government or socialism. Decker says the Republican Party's philosophy is based on the notions of individual rights and freedom from government interference. "We need to provide some balance and be the conscience of the Republican side of the aisle," Decker told the *Washington Post* in May, 1984. "We need to start working with fellow conservatives [to show] that bigotry is a basic violation of the conservative philosophy."

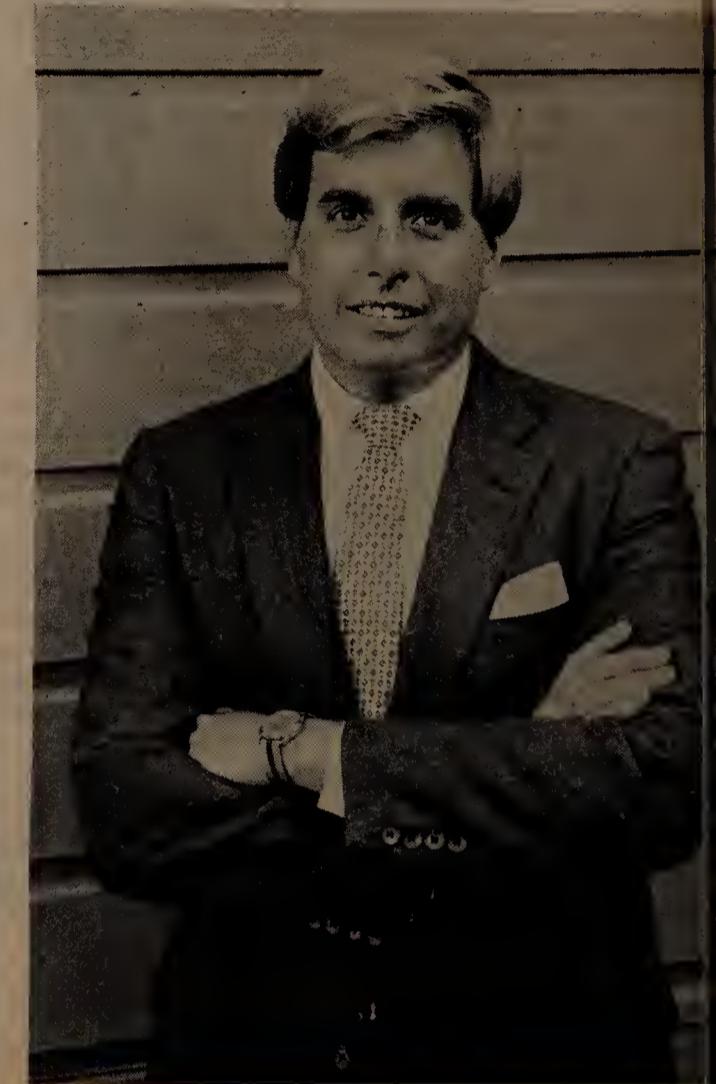
C.A.I.R. was created as a non-profit, educational organization for the purpose of changing minds rather than endorsing candidates or legislation. Contributions to C.A.I.R. are tax-deductible. In its statement of purpose, C.A.I.R. endorses the "...traditional values on which this country was founded including patriotism, religious faith, personal and economic freedom and hard work.... At the same time," it goes on, "we want to persuade the gay community of where its interest lies....

Reagan was going to get us into war.' That's all we heard about. 'Ronald Reagan was anti-gay.' That's all we heard about. We're certainly not at war and I could only remind people, that in 1978 he actively campaigned against the Briggs initiative in California which would have banned homosexuals from teaching in the schools. Ronald Reagan is opposed to discrimination at any level. You will notice, that even though the New Right talks a good game, they have not been successful: Ronald Reagan has not supported them on any of their major agenda items."

Liberals and radicals would argue with Decker about many of his observations including his choice not to see U.S. involvement in Central America as a war and his interpretation of Reagan's late and half-hearted rejection of the Briggs initiative as an endorsement.

Civil rights leaders would certainly question Decker's assertion that Reagan is "opposed to discrimination at any level." Few Blacks hold major positions in the Reagan White House and the administration has systematically dismantled affirmative action programs and cut spending for social programs designed to help Blacks and other minorities overcome economic and educational disadvantages. While conservatives argue these programs represent too much government involvement, Reagan has failed to provide alternative solutions.

Finally, it's fair to say that the New Right agenda is more the victim of Congress than of President Reagan,



Bruce Decker

who continues to strongly and publicly endorse the New Right's call for school prayer and aid to parochial schools; their opposition to abortion, and their celebration of the traditional family as the only legitimate family.

While it is becoming increasingly hard for gay people to know who their political friends really are, Ronald Reagan generally has not been considered among them. As president, he has never made a pro-gay statement, or supported any legislation protecting gay civil rights, or issued any executive orders prohibiting discrimination against gay men and lesbians working for the Federal government. And as a presidential candidate in 1983, Reagan made some decidedly anti-gay statements to conservative religious groups at the Dallas convention.

But even if Decker were correct that Ronald Reagan is not anti-gay, it is also true that Reagan has not exactly been pro-gay, a point Decker acknowledges with a question of his own, a question that strikes close to the heart of his philosophy: "Should the federal government be involved in endorsing homosexuality as a lifestyle?" Decker thinks not, and believes that the progressive lesbian/gay agenda amounts to a request for such an endorsement.

But Decker also acknowledges that the government should not discriminate, because discrimination constitutes an endorsement of homophobia: "I think that where the federal government is discriminating against gay men and women based on their sexuality, it has to be stopped, and I would hope that we would be given the opportunity of making that presentation to the President sometime during the second term. We are committed to doing that. I think that an executive order prohibiting discrimination by the federal government based on sexual discrimination is clearly in order. As long as the federal government is discriminating against gay men and women, then everybody else is going to think it's all right."

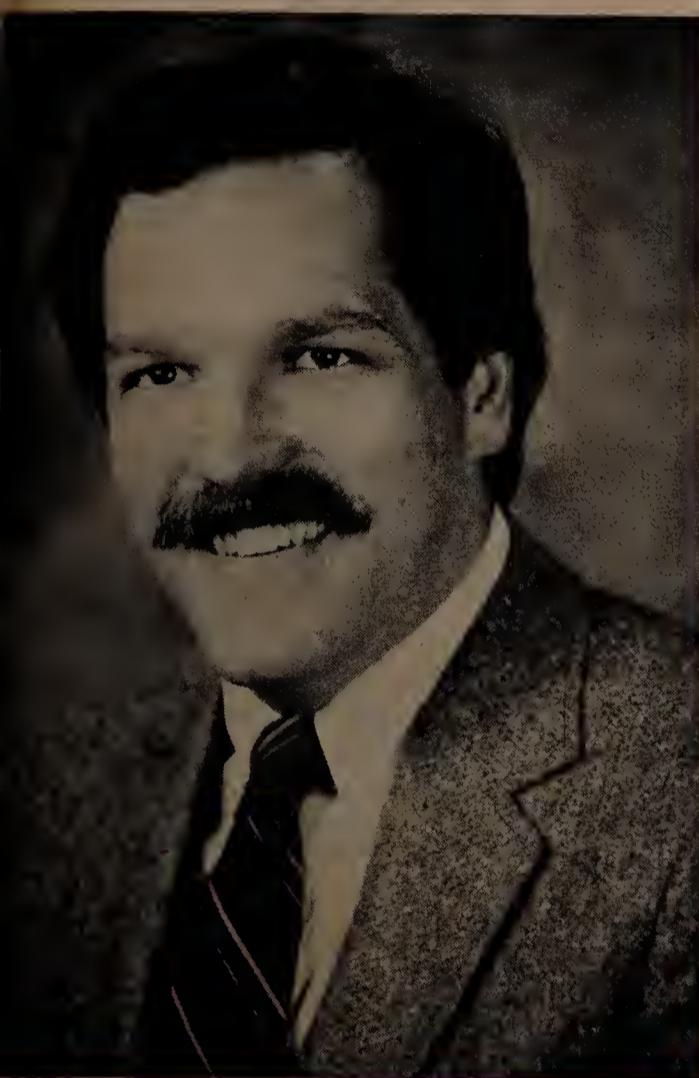
Decker's proposition — that all he need do is get the President's ear and inform him of the discrimination that exists and the President will respond — seems naive. But this idealism is the essence of Decker's conservatism; in the end, according to this theory, all true conservatives cannot help but see the logic of liberal/gay rights.

"One of the things we have been very successful at," says Decker, "is simply sitting down [with Republicans] and pointing out that Republicanism and bigotry just don't mix."

"A lot of moderate to conservative leaders think they don't know anyone who is gay. Fifty to 60 percent



Conservatives: a Free Market Economy



Bob Ebersole

of this country polled will say they don't think they know anyone who is gay. One of the things we learned during the Briggs initiative in California, [was that] one of the most effective campaign tools was coming out."

The New Right has been quite vitriolic in its condemnation of gay people, and many religious and political organizations have used anti-gay rhetoric to raise large amounts of money. Attacks on lesbians and gays are such a basic part of their strategy that it seems unlikely they would abandon them even at the urging of fellow conservatives who are also gay. Decker acknowledges this and says that these people are not friends of his, that they do not hold up the banner of true conservatism.

"The one thing that I want to emphasize," Decker says, "is that we are about to see a burgeoning of the New Right and right-wing attempts to manipulate the AIDS issue . . . What we're doing is calling for any and all organizations around the country to send us news clippings of any kind of attempt by the New Right to use AIDS as a fundraising tool or an organizational tool, because this kind of cynical manipulation of the AIDS tragedy has got to be publicly stopped. It's our feeling that we are uniquely positioned to do so, and to take those to the White House and to take those to the governors' mansions and to say to our more conservative friends, 'This is what your pals are putting out and you have got to stop it.'"

Ebersole and Decker are trying to change the image of the gay rights movement, which they argue is perceived as radical at worst, and very liberal at best. They believe these perceptions prevent many Americans, who perceive themselves as neither radical nor liberal, from comprehending the gay rights struggle. By their example, Decker and Ebersole hope to change the perception that gay rights is a liberal issue by definition. "We're not out to replace liberalism," says Ebersole. "We're out to take our place along with them because, as is often said in many GCN articles, the struggle is ours all together, and if we don't work together, we're not going to get anywhere. So we shouldn't turn the anger inward. We've got to turn it outward."

Turning anger inward is, of course, a common experience in the gay community. We are sometimes bitterly divided over issues, tactics and people. Such division is normal in a group as large and diverse as ours, but our differences — between radicals and liberals, as well as between moderates and conservatives — are nevertheless real, and they have nothing to do with being gay and lesbian. They center around old-fashioned politics and ideology.

Our political differences become more evident as the

movement for gay rights succeeds and openly gay men and lesbians increasingly find themselves in places of power. The more we succeed, the more our many differences begin to surface.

Nowhere is this more evident than in electoral politics. Currently it is fair to say that most openly gay and lesbian elected officials are moderate to liberal, like Massachusetts Congressman Gerry Studds or Boston City Councillor David Sondras. But Sondras' first campaign bitterly divided Boston's gay and lesbian community because of his strong support for rent control, housing reform, and a host of other liberal and even radical issues. Sondras' position contrasted sharply with the more moderate views of Dennis Quilty, his non-gay opponent, who found among his supporters gay and lesbian property owners opposed to rent control and others offended by Sondras' politics.

Bob Ebersole is one of the few openly gay and conservative elected officials in the country. "Some of the people [I've talked to] said they would support any gay candidate no matter what they [the candidate] believes", says Ebersole. "Then I come on the scene as a conservative to moderate and say, 'Would you support me?' The shoe is on the other foot now, and you get a little silence at that point." He might have cited the case of Hugh Russell, an openly gay candidate for the Cambridge City Council last year. Because Russell is against rent control, he was opposed by gay men and lesbians on the left.

"I see the importance of having openly gay elected

"The only real equality that gay people can get in this country, is through financial and fiscal achievement," he argues. "We're not going to succeed in the short run in eliminating discrimination against us . . . Smart minorities have always used discrimination against them to their own benefit. If you look at the gay community, we probably have four or five times the incidence of entrepreneurship as the non-gay community. If you look at urban renewal in this nation, I believe you will find that the gay community has been a tremendously positive force. So why should the gay community be in favor of rent control when we are potentially some of the larger landlords around . . . where we're going and cleaning up otherwise downtrodden parts of town?"

Decker's reference to "smart minorities" is insulting to Black's and other groups denied access to political and economic power because of racism or sexism. Decker and his fellow conservatives believe that everyone has an equal opportunity; progressives believe that some people start out with more opportunities and advantages than others. Decker's figures on gay entrepreneurs are impossible to verify, but even if he is correct, his assertion that all gays and lesbians can rise to power through financial achievement ignores the fundamental inequality of opportunity and class. When it comes to managing property, sexual preference has nothing to do with anything; and cleaning up downtrodden neighborhoods often means throwing out the poor and underprivileged. In some cities gay

"If you look at urban renewal in this nation, I believe you will find that the gay community has been a tremendously positive force. So why should the gay community be in favor of rent control when we are potentially some of the larger landlords around...where we're going and cleaning up otherwise downtrodden parts of town?"

officials because it provides visibility and role models," adds Ebersole. "But what happens to that role model when David goes down to Nicaragua? What does that do to the far right view of gay people?"

Ebersole and Decker want to separate the simple proposition of gay rights from the other political questions, a separation which they believe comes easily and naturally. This contrasts with the basic assumptions of progressive politics which argue that the oppression of gay men and lesbians is part of the larger context of oppression and discrimination throughout the world.

"There should not be a gay agenda which says that gay people are for rent control, gay people are for nuclear disarmament, gay people are for abortion," insists Ebersole.

"The gay community is a microcosm of the community as a whole," adds Decker. "There are some people who are not going to support a candidate who's gay because he's gay. I certainly am not going to hold it against property owners in Boston for supporting an individual who is not going to limit their right to own property. Rent control is an absolute scam."

While progressive gays and lesbians draw the connections between economics and the oppression of gay people, Ebersole and Decker argue that there are no connections. Gay men and lesbians can find paths to power in America through economic success; in fact, says Decker, it's the only way.

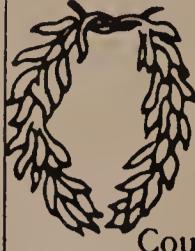
men and lesbians have been reviled for displacing other minorities.

But there is also some truth to what Decker has to say; the truth is that white gay men like Ebersole, Decker, and, yes, myself, have sometimes been able to overcome the prejudice connected with homosexuality and take advantage of the opportunities of our race, sex and class — as openly gay people. But women, poor gay men and lesbians, and people of color enjoy fewer privileges; for them homosexuality only adds further to their burdens.

Should progressive lesbians and gay men welcome the gay conservatives into coalitions? Conservatives on the battlefield will change the nature of the gay and lesbian rights movement; that is their goal and to some extent they are already having that effect. Ironically, given the modest success the movement has had in changing the climate for gay people in this country over the last decade, the emergence of C.A.I.R. was probably inevitable.

But in spite of the differences, enemies of the lesbian and gay community still, on occasion, have the power to unite us. In Massachusetts Governor Michael Dukakis has proved this with his blatantly discriminatory and insulting policy which effectively excludes gay men and lesbians from being foster parents. Fights like these are likely to keep us more united than apart.

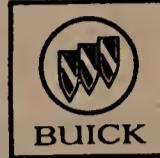


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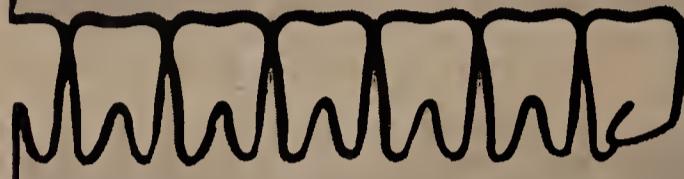
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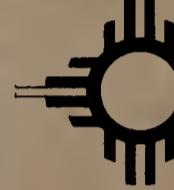
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Wertmuller's Noisy Subtlety

Continued from page 7

she hints that his relationship with Ester has been radically altered and hands him a closing line which — whether he's aware of the irony or not — sums up the stupidity of machismo.

While Wertmuller's apparent affection for this bumbling macho

may make this film offensive to some feminists and faggots, I hope they'll take a closer look at her portrayal of Ester and Adele. While the director is unwilling to break with tradition to the extent that would allow the women to enjoy a mutual erotic attraction, she

does give these straight women credit for fighting back against Oscar and hanging onto their friendship.

I may be in a minority, but I left *Sotto...Sotto* laughing — partly in defense against the violence, but also in appreciation of these feisty, lovable women.

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Tall, attractive butch has good news to tell someone. Would love a visit from someone unique. Renee Rogers, Box 99, Framingham, MA 01701.

Female 31 seeks friends to correspond with. Your race is unimportant. I'm outgoing, outspoken, and love to have a good time. Would like to hear from some of you. Other prisoners are allowed to write. Jacqueline PURVIS, 151595-572, Box 8540, Pembroke Pines 33063.



These people have a way of raining on my parade [not letting her get GCN]. I guess we can keep trying. I'd like to have some reading material on women's spirituality and also to be on the penpal list, particularly for other lesbians interested in spirituality. Karen HAGY, 2908 11th Ave No. Ext., Nampa ID 83651.

Taurus, butch-borderline dyke, medical technologist, doing 15 yrs for robbery, would like to write to serious-minded cancer or scorpio fem. My interests are bodybuilding, tennis, karate, calligraphy, medicine and more. I love kids, loyal women (if there are any left), and quiet evenings at home. Vicki SIMMONS, 322889, Rt 4 Box 800, Gatesville TX 76528.



I like swimming, riding, motorcycles and horseback riding. I also like classical guitar and some old time rock and roll. Please write and send photo if possible. Jerry MILLER, 319060, Ellis II, Huntsville TX 77340.

Lonely prisoner, 25, seeking a sincere relationship with someone who can care. Tony EDEN, 158-960, Box 69, London OH 43140.

Dark brown curly hair, baby blue eyes, like music, very active in sports, and a hopeless romantic. Richard Ray BROOME, 394253, Rt 1 Box 1, Wynne, Huntsville TX 77349.

Prisoners Seeking Friends

ALL PRISONERS, AND ESPECIALLY WOMEN, ARE ENCOURAGED TO WRITE PRISON BOOK PROGRAM (c/o Redbook, 92 Green St., Jamaica Plain, MA 02130) REQUESTING BOOKS ON WOMEN'S ISSUES, NOVELS, POLITICAL TOPICS, RACISM, THE PRISON BUSINESS, GAY AND LESBIAN AND OTHER ISSUES. (WE USUALLY RUN ABOUT A MONTH OR SO BEHIND, SO BE PATIENT)



I am 31 yrs old, brown hair, hazel eyes, fair built, nice looking, clean and polite. I like people to treat me as I treat them. Frederick CURL, 77C 0687, 354 Hunter St., Ossining NY 10562.

Attractive, sincere, fun-loving male seeks friendship or more with TVs, gay males or bisexual females, or anyone interested in writing. William SARMIENTO, 80C617, 205 Marine Dr., Buffalo NY 14202.

Ready to seriously correspond. Taurus, gray eyes. For real only. Mark MCPHERSON, 30439, Box 30, Pendleton IN 46064.

I would enjoy hearing from nice people. I'm 30, 20 at heart, and it's very lonely in these places (inspite of the crowding!). Ronald HESTER, 231224, Box 158 (G-529), Lowell FL 32663.

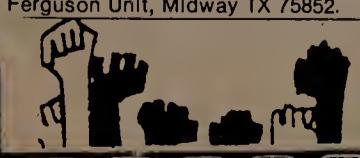
AIDS note:

The test for the HTLV-III antibody (ELISA test) gives VERY high numbers of 'false positives'. Tests so far have shown that when the test is repeated for 1000 people who tested positive the first time, only 290 test positive on the second administration of the test. This means the test is not AT ALL reliable. It doesn't give the same results on different days even! Spread the word among other prisoners about this, especially the ones who think it is important for prisoners to be given this test. Many people who take the test will come out positive when they're really not. This reason for NOT taking the test is in addition to the reasons having to do with how the prison administration WILL USE the results to abuse prisoners who get positive test results. Send for a copy of the ACLU article on "Aids in prison" for more details.

Pre-op MTF-TS needs letters. I'm hitched, but still need friends! (especially TS sisters who know how it is). Jerry HIGHTOWER [Cheri Renee], 287579, Cedar A-2, Box 900, Shelton WA 98584.

Vegetarian with a good sense of humor seeks friendship with intelligent and health minded people. Buddy SPENCER, Box 500, Boydton, VA 23917.

Want to discover the feeling? Well, we can and will with your writing this locked down one. Writing is my spice of life these lonely days. If you wish to exchange fantasies, thoughts, and experiences just write Chester Vinton HAAS, 327322 A, Rt 2 Box 20, Ferguson Unit, Midway TX 75852.





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CHRISTINE B.

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Be my valentine.
I love you. KAG your SBD 31

PRISONER NEEDS FRIENDS

Bisexual prisoner, 27, sincere and open seeks sincere male and female friends to help me cope. Not looking for games or hustles, just some friendship and compassion. Please write. You could be surprised! James W. Smith II, 90563 WCI R3, RT2 BX 500, Angle, LA 70426 32

Hey poopaloo! We'll get through these bad times together. We survived Duddy, we can survive anything! I love you very much. Deb (HAGDDCF) 31

Looking for some hot sauce to put on my hot tamale for red hot eating pleasure. 31

Birkenstocks bother me. So do potlucks + people who spell women w/a "y". Prof GWF 25 lbs pizza, pinstripes and puns. Closer 2 socially adept than socially aware. Sks fun, irreverent friends. Maybe in loafers? Box 30. 32

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Until we're 97! I adore you! PAD PAD. 31

New Haven area LF seeks same to share arts, politics, personal growth, of the mind, outdoor fun, late 40's child grown write. 31

Happy valentines day to my loving fish. Love and kisses, your crabby. 31

MADGE
You do my hands (and the rest of me) oh, so well! I'm soft for you. Love, Timmy's roommate. 31

PRIDE, PROUD, PROUDEST!

30,000 strong Lesbian and Gay voices will be raised in pride this year. Be there on June 14th (raindate 15th) with us! -The Pride Planning Committee. 391-3411 for info. 31

LF, 41, RI Veterinarian, recent break up, desires relationship with mutual respect, support, humor, some space, friendship first. Box 27. 32

I LOVE YOU, SARA K.

What beautiful lives exist for two doves that fly together! What exquisite future for love that can speak the languages of mind, body and soul. I celebrate our union with feeling expressable only in sound or color and await a language which can encompass my love and still stay logical! 31

GWM, 18-25, wanted 4A friend who has old fashion values, non promiscuous. Ad by successful w/m, 37, (cincut/cinshavn), have my own car, home! Write P.O. Box 1489 Boston 02205. 39

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Simply - I'm a very busy clean-cut Irish w/m busnsmn who would like to date a cute Bos? guy 18-26. Movies, dinner and relationship? PO Box 1210 Boston, MA 02205. 34

Non-smoking, no drugs w/m, 18-25, without mustache wanted but must have values, intelligence (prefer blond college athlete). Ad by w/m, 37. P.O. Box 1489 Boston 02205. 39

Ambitious gwm, 38, wants young 18-24, non-smoking, blond, clean-cut/shaven student escort on a regular basis! I have Boston home on the MBTA line! John 265-3595. Best time to call 7-11 pm. 34

DICTIONARY, anyone?

The most requested book at the Prisoner's Project is the dictionary. (Prisoners, generally uneducated, need them to wade thru law books etc.) If you have a spare one (paperbacks especially), please send it to: GCN Prisoner Project, 167 Tremont St., Boston, MA 02111. Thanks! 30



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I dreamed my pain last night Images sharp, messages crystal. A letter came; my name in red. Open me, open I slid my knife under the flap... nothing new here, ha, ha. Opened, opened the mail mail. Moths? Moths! Hundreds, maybe; Filled my mouth, choked my sounds. I awoke, dread tired. Author, Anonymous dyke incest survivor. 32



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ROOMMATE WANTED**CHEAP BUT NICE JAMAICA PLAIN
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2 LF's seeking LF or F for 3/1/86. Rent \$166 plus. Nr Orange and Green lines. No cats or smokers. Mary or Nancy 522-2035. Nancy-days 495-1585. (32)

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LF 25 seeks LF to share spacious 2 bdrm apt in W. Medford. Must be resp, prof, non-smkr. Modern apt, w/w dwds, nice neighborhood-must see! Have 2 cats, no more please! 300 + Call Jane 488-3202 Btwn 7-10pm. (36)

GWM 26 prof, w/2 cats? seeks quiet GWM homeowner in Malden area to rent from as of 3/1. Very handy with home and garden improv. Rent neg. Al 321-1729. Not a sex ad. Serious inq only. (31)

PETS OK!

L 30 sks resp employed woman to share 8 rm house in Holliston. 1 acre fenced yd, screenhouse, 2 fireplaces, will have own bdrm, study bath. No heavy drugs/alcohol/cigs. \$375+. Avail 4/15. Melanie 429-7378. Weds-Sun. Keep trying. (32)

LWF seeks 2 LF to share 8 room house in Sudbury in woods. 25+, aminals ok, access to Route 9, Route 20, + Mass Pike. \$425. 893-8149 (31)

LF, 36, friendly, independent and considerate sks L for 5 RM Carolina Ave apt. JP, near T. Large yard, private porch, 3rd fl. Safe, warm. \$325 heated. 524-8655. WK: (603) 881-2434. Ask for Lynn. (31)

2Fs (1G) seek rmt for 3bdr SEnd apt smokers, hedonists. Lovers of Aretha, cottage cheese, letterman + Princess Stephanie. \$317 +/month. 267-6167 (31)

GOOD WOMAN WANTED, 30 +
March 1st **fun, feminist house w/ Bi + L. Commitment to growth creating balance of cooperation + camaraderie. Independent nonsmoking animal lover. Nr T. No cats. \$208+. Call 354-3399 (31)

JP: LF seeks LF 28+ to share apt w/ AT, back porch + yard, big kitchen. No smoke mostly veggie share some meals. Open to communication. \$237.50 + utilities. 522-3868 w524-1984 Linda. (31)

Lf, 33 and 4 mo. old infant seek friendly lf roommate to share beaut. pondside JP apt. No drugs or alcohol. No pets. \$230+ utilities. Julie 522-2626. (29)

CAMBRIDGE—SOMERVILLE

Middle-aged bisexual man wishes to share small apartment with stable, emotionally mature, financially responsible, communicative, considerate and cooperative person or couple. No pets or drugs please. Call David at 923-0082. (c)

HOUSE IN NORTHAMPTON

JLF seeks similar for 1 bdrm in 2 bdrm house, 1 mile from cntr of town. Must be responsible and have sense of humor. Rent is \$187+ utilities. Call 586-9451. Leave message. (31)

Jlf and lf seek mature, responsible to share lovely 3 bedroom apt. near Davis Sq., Som. 99.4 chem free. \$200+. 1/politically correct cat. 628-4165. (29)

HOUSEMATE WANTED

3F Women aek 4th L/Bis/het for lovely JP home. We are musical sharing, indep, sense of humor, 30-35 yrs. \$275 + 524-0424, 522-4219 (31)

CAMBRIDGEPORT COLLECTIVE

4-Person mixed collective in Cambridgeport needs 2 more housemates, preferably for March 1st. The household includes gay + straight, women and men, and 1 child (9) part-time. We are socially/politically progressive, semi-veg, non-smoking and we share meals and occasional outings. The house is large (3 stories), neat, inexpensive (\$200 includes rent and all utilities) + is 2 blocks from Central Sq. The collective has been somewhere in-between totally independent and incredibly close-knit. Call ASAP! Evenings before 10:30, call 864-1466; or ask for Laurie at GCN, 426-4469. (30)

SOMERVILLE HOUSEMATE WANTED

GM couple to share 6 room house with Mor F. Kitchen, dining, livingroom, den and 2 bedrooms. Large yard, very private. Must like pets, dogs and cats. Please be neat and responsible. Be part of a warm, friendly, home. References preferred. \$225 per month and 1/3 utilities. Call 629-2970. Leave message. (31)

HOUSING WANTED

JUST ARRIVED FROM Calif L+2 cats seek room in house in JP or Camb near trans, spiritual growth oriented, friendly atmosphere. \$150-200 Bronwyn 325-3726. (32)

NEED A ROOMMATE

GF, 26 sks rm in/near Cambridge in indep hshld w/1-3 others. Clean, considerate, responsible. Am a nonsmoker, but smoke ok w/me. Can pay \$250+ util + deposit NOW! Call Leza 423-2939, evens till 11pm. (32)

GM musician-conductor w/ pno & cat. Enjoy performing, prog pol., clean, humor, good food, cooperation. George Fulginiti-Shakar at 547-2120. (29)

GREAT HOUSE WANTED

LF 28 clean quiet responsible-seeks long term housing in stable home. No active alcohol/drug abusers. Mar 1. Kathleen 625-7734. (32)

APARTMENTS**DORCHESTER
LARGE 1 BR APT.**

In lovely Victorian house, hardwood floors, yard, 1½ baths, sunporch, Melville park, near Shawmut T. No pets. \$595 heated. 825-1912, 482-7943. (31)

MINUTES TO DOWNTOWN

Modern brick apt bldg, 1-2 bedroom, balconies, hdwd floors, tile bath, frig, heat, hot water inc. Free parking, close to transportation. Codman Hill, Dorchester. \$600-650/ Call 825-0252 for appt. (32)

CAMBRIDGE INMAN SQ

Comfortable 1 bdrm apt. 450 + utils. References + security dep. Avail 3/1. Pets ok. Call 661-4102. (32)

REAL ESTATE**BAY VILLAGE**

Architecturally designed luxury one bedroom condominium. Electrifying city view from solarium livingroom. Study with fireplace. Fully equipped kitchen with separate dining area. One of Bay Village's most unique residences. \$169,000. Jeff Kaps, Hunneman Better Homes and Gardens, 266-4430 (32)

DORCHESTER-SALE BY OWNER

Picturesque 7 rm victorian, 3 sunny bdrms, entry kitch, walk in clos, newly rstrd din/lvg rms. Unfinished bsmt/attic. Short walk Ashmont T. Lv message 825-0025 8am to 10pm. \$120K. (34)

BAY VILLAGE

Lovely small townhouse on best street. 4 BR's, 2½ baths, LR, DR, library. Private deck. Offered at \$395,000. Call Elise Henning, Hunneman and Co., 45 Newbury Street. 426-4430. (31)

TRADING POST**WOMEN'S BARTER NETWORK**

Short on cash, but have lots you'd like to trade for your needs? Women's Barter Network is a non-profit, nationwide barter referral system for women and women's organizations/businesses. Send SASE for details to Women's Barter Network, Box 712, Wabash, Indiana 46992. (30)

FOR SALE**WINTER SPECIALS**

1) 2 SNOW TIRES, tubeless radials, 165SR13, about 10,000 miles, excellent condition; Tiger Brand and Sears Roadhandler. \$25 a piece; \$40/pair. (32)

2) Leather knee high Bass leatherboots. Size 7, light brown, worn very little. 522-5529. (c)

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76 Arlington St.

RESORTS**BED & BREAKFAST IN N.Y.**

Enjoy a decadent weekend in a charming, lesbian owned, N.Y. brownstone—only 1 subway stop from Manhattan. Be pampered by having breakfast served in bed, and sipping a complimentary bottle of champagne on arrival. For more information call 718-625-2653. The RADCLYFFE HALL or 718-522-2828 (s17)

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CHECK'ER INN**

Double rooms, coffee bt fireside, pkg. apts. also available. 1 block bay, open year round. 487-9029, 25 Winthrop St. P'town, MA 02657 (yr)

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Come ski our miles of x-country trails, ice skate or snowshoe, soak in our hot tub, enjoy a sleigh ride or downhill ski. We've got it all—including a cozy fireplace and hundreds of books for those who prefer chairs to skis. Great mid-week discounts! The Highlands Inn, Box 118 G Bethlehem, NH 03574. (603) 869-3978. Grace + Judi innkeepers. (34)

SPINDRIFT TROPICAL RESORT

"Tropically perfect—Perfectly tropical" (The Weekly News, Miami). Free brochure—Spindrift, 1212 Simonton, Key West, FL 33040. (305) 296-3432. Helen, Hostess. (43)

GCN SPECIALS

Circulation Department needs help updating the paper's mailing list. The volunteer position requires a commitment of a couple of hours per week, and a knowledge of or a desire to learn data input. If you're interested, call Marcos at 426-4469. Thanks. (C)

Darlings, do you know computers? Better yet, do you know dBase III like it was your main squeeze? If you do, then GCN's Computer Committee needs to know you! Solve our problems and you'll get glory! Come to our meetings and you'll be charmed! How can you resist? Pick up that phone now, and call Marcos at 426-4469. (C)

ORGANIZATIONS**D.O.B.**

Support orgnzn for lesbians, 1151 Mass Ave, Cambridge, Old Bap Chr. Raps every Tues, Thur 8pm. Special raps for 35+; parents; yng women; baby bmrs; singles; coming out; issues forum. All 8pm. Monthly events, outing club, library. Info: 661-3633. All women invited to participate. (?)

LESBIANS

Are you Lesbian, Bisexual or unsure? Looking for a group to go? Come join us at BAGLY.

CALL Tony, 497-8282

(13/32)

BLACK AND WHITE MEN TOGETHER

Multiracial group for all people. Call (415) 431-1976 or write BWMT Suite 140, 580 Castro St., SF, CA 94114. (v14.15)

"JOHNNY DIED TODAY..."

14 year old Joey will blow out his brains, Eddie will overdose and David will slash his wrists in the days to come. All because you're too scared to protect them. SASE for info, \$2 stamps 64 page newsletter. \$20 subsc/mbrshp. "REALITY INC." PO Box 73, Paramus, NJ 07653. (N) (?)

HETEROSEXISM, RACISM

Sexism, anti-Semitism, multicultural issues. Workshops by national consultants for your organization (municipal, professional, political, educational) or business. Contact Equity Institute in Amherst, MA at (413)256-6902. Co-directors Carole Lanigan Johnson, J.D., and Joan Lester Ed.D. (E) (?)

GAY LESBIAN AND JEWISH?

Am Tikva welcomes you. Activities include religious observances, discussions, potluck dinners, folk dancing, etc. For events, check GCN Calendar. Call (617) 782-8894 or write PO Box 11 Camb, MA 02238. (C) (?)

MAN/BOY LOVE

A support group for intergenerational relationships. For more information send \$1 to: NAMBLA—GCNAD at 537 Jones St. No. 8418, S.F., CA 94102 or PO Box 174, New York, NY 10018. (v.14.23)

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Montreal	79rt Hong Kong(NYC)	829rt
New York	66rt Mexico City	375rt
Quebec	142rt Seattle	178rt

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PRISONERS WRITING PRISONERS

States that DO usually let prisoners write other state prisoners (with permission) are: Ver, Mass, NY, Fla, NJ, Miss, Ohio, Penn, N.C., Kan, Tex, Cal, N.Mex, Colo, Ore, Mont, Wash, La, Neb, Mary, Vir, Ariz.

States that DON'T (or only with difficulty) let prisoners write each other are: Ala, RI, Okla, Nev, Iowa, Id, WVir, Wyo, Tenn, Wisc, Ind.

If you have info on states not listed above (or corrections) or on Federal prisoners, please let us know. It saves other prisoners a lot of wasted postage.

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PRISON BOOK PROGRAM
c/o Redbook
92 Green St.
Jamaica Plain, MA 02130

Fortune Society
(prison newspaper)
39 W 19th, NYC 10011

Prison Pen Pals
Box 82188,
San Diego, CA 92138

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CALENDAR

February 15 to February 22

15 saturday

Boston — "To Life: A Liturgy for All Touched by AIDS," sponsored by Dignity/Boston. Paulist Center Chapel, 5 Park St. 8PM. Reception to follow.

Cambridge — "Conversations," performed as part of a **Suite for Single Women** by Gloria Parkinson. Agassiz Theatre, Radcliffe, 10 Garden St. 8PM. Free. Info: 495-8676.

Boston — "The Gold Diggers," a film directed by Sally Potter. Mass. College of Art, Longwood Building, Rm. 309, 364 Brookline Ave. 7:30 & 9:30PM. \$2.

Cambridge — Boston Area Women's Self-defense Collective accepting new students. 595 Mass. Ave. (Central Sq.) All ages, abilities welcome. Info: 574-9433.



Rosemary Curb, Feb. 18

16 sunday

Boston — *The Man with the Suitcase*, a film directed by Chantal Akerman. Mass. College of Art, Longwood Building, Rm. 309, 364 Brookline Ave. 7:30 & 9:30PM. \$2.

Boston — 8th Annual Mass. Gay Political Caucus Auction. Somewhere Else, 295 Franklin St. 4-8PM.

Provincetown — Benefit performance of *The Night of the Iguana*, for the Provincetown AIDS Support Group. Provincetown Art Association & Museum, 460 Commercial St. 8PM. \$10; includes dessert buffet afterwards. Info: 487-9445.

Worthington, MA — Outdoor Trips for Women, day-long cross-country ski workshop. 9AM-5PM. Info: (413) 256-0898.

Boston — Cocktail Party to benefit the New York City Gay Men's Chorus. 143 W. Newton St. 8-11PM. Info: 262-2988.

17 monday

Cambridge — "Ovations," an all-female AIDS benefit performance with Judy Collins, Colleen Dewhurst & others. American Repertory Theatre, Loeb Drama Center, 64 Brattle St. 8PM. \$25, \$50 (performance and reception). Info: 547-8300.

18 tuesday

Cambridge — Coming out group. Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. 7:30-9:30PM. Info: 364-8807.

Cambridge — *Maedchen in Uniform*, shown as part of Harvard Film Archives' Women's Cinema series. 24 Quincy St., Harvard Univ. 5:30 & 8PM. \$2. Info: 495-4700.

18 tuesday

Cambridge — Coming out group. Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. 7:30-9:30PM. Info: 364-8807.

Cambridge — *Maedchen in Uniform*, shown as part of Harvard Film Archives' Women's Cinema series. 24 Quincy St., Harvard Univ. 5:30 & 8PM. \$2. Info: 495-4700.

Boston — Women's Rollerskating at Spinoff, sponsored by D.O.B. 22 and under group. Meet at Daughters of Bilitis, 1151 Mass. Ave., Old Cambridge Baptist Church. 7:15PM. \$4 adm./skate rental. Info: 661-3633.

Cambridge — "Women & AIDS," a discussion as part of Harvard/Radcliffe's "Festival of Life." Phillips Brooks House, Harvard Yard. 4PM. Free.

Cambridge — Jim Vetter's *Mime and Magic* in the Festival of Life. Experimental Theater, Loeb Drama Center. 7:30 & 10PM. \$5.

Boston — Legacy, a drop-in social for lesbian & gay elders. Clarendon St. YWCA. 6-8PM. Info: 725-4907.

19 wednesday

Cambridge — Lesbian Rights Task Force of Boston NOW. 99 Bishop Allen Drive, Central Sq. 7PM. Info: 661-6015.

Cambridge — "Risk Reduction," a discussion as part of Harvard's week-long seminar on AIDS. Phillips Brooks House, Harvard Yard. 4PM. Free.

20 thursday

Boston — GCN's production night: all welcome to proofread & paste-up pages. 5-7PM for proofreading, 8PM-midnight for paste-up. 167 Tremont St., near Park & Boylston T-stops. GCN: 426-4469.

Cambridge — "AIDS & the Law," a discussion. Phillips Brooks House, Harvard Yard. 4PM. Free.

Cambridge — Allen Ginsberg reading from his work. Sanders Theatre, Memorial Hall. 8PM. \$5.

Boston — First meeting of Lesbian & Gay Writers Network, a monthly group to connect writers, share skills & resources, and discuss issues of concern. Info: 491-3789.

Cambridge — Lesbian Liberation. Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. 8-10PM. Info: 354-8807.

Dorchester — GALA monthly meeting. 8 Fox St., No. 2. 7:00PM. Info: 288-4367 or 288-9155.

Boston — "Odyssey: A Journey Through Mime and Space," a retrospective by the Odyssey Mime Theatre Company. First Baptist Church, 110 Commonwealth Ave. 8PM. \$7, \$5 students & seniors. Info: 492-1724.

21 friday

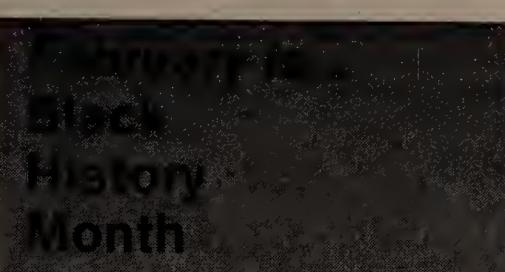
Boston — GCN's volunteer night: all welcome to help mail the paper to our subscribers. Refreshments, good times. Anytime after 6PM. 167 Tremont St., near Park & Boylston T-stops. GCN: 426-4469.

Cambridge — "How You Can Help," a discussion as part of Harvard's week-long seminar on AIDS. Phillips Brooks House, Harvard Yard. 4PM. Free.

Boston — Am Tikva Shabbat Service and Oneg Shabbat. 74 Joy St., Hill House. 8PM. Please bring something sweet to share. Info: 782-8894.

Cambridge — "The Politics of Women's Biology," a lecture by Ruth Hubbard. MIT Room 9-150, 105 Mass. Ave. 8PM. Free.

Arlington — Tracy Chapman & Wheatstone Bridge, coffeehouse concert. Uncle Sam's Backyard, St. John's Episcopal Church, Pleasant St. \$4.50. Info: Ed or Rick, 641-2131.



18 tuesday

Boston — Beth Anne Bower on "The Archaeology Program and the African Meeting House." Museum of Afro-American History, the Abiel Smith School, 46 Joy St., Beacon Hill. 5:30PM.

Boston — Minority Student Affairs Awards Night/Oratory Competition. Northeastern Univ. Eli Center Ballroom. 7PM.

19 wednesday

Cambridge — "The Black Woman: Revisions of a Distorted Image," a talk by Helen Boulware Moore. Bldg. 9-150, MIT. 7:30PM. Free. Info: 253-8844.

Boston — *Cry the Beloved Country*, sponsored by Northeastern Univ.'s African American Institute. Eli Center Ballroom, Northeastern Univ. 7PM.

20 thursday

Boston — "Black Male/Female Relationships," a forum. African American Institute, Leon St., Northeastern Univ. 7PM.

Cambridge — Poet Michael Harper to read from his work. Mezzanine Lounge, MIT Student Center, 84 Mass. Ave. 8PM. Info: 253-7894.

Cambridge — Angry Arts: Two new films on South Africa: *Two Rivers* and *The Hammer and the Anvil*. YWCA, 7 Temple St., Central Sq. 7:30PM. \$2.75. Also playing Sat. & Sun. Info: 625-9279.

Cambridge — Winter benefit for Boston's first lesbian soap opera, *2 in 20*. First Congregational Church, 11 Garden St., Harvard Sq. 8-10:30PM. \$7. Info: 625-3169.

Boston — "Women's International Struggles," with speakers Karin Aguilar, Hyun Kyung Chung, Ntsiki Langford, and Estella Ramirez. Church of the Covenant, 67 Newbury St. 7PM. \$3.5. Info: 277-1330.

22 saturday

Boston — "Something About the Women," interview with women involved in the Boston music scene. WMFO 91.5 FM. 10AM-2PM.

Stowe, VT — Downhill Skiing with the Chiltern Mtn. Club. A two-day trip. Info: Josh, 232-6577 (h) or 726-8653 (w).

Boston — Community Forum on New Reproductive Technologies. U/Mass Boston, Arlington St. 10AM-4PM. Free. Info: 876-7680 or 738-5482.

Cambridge — *Buddies*, a film by Arthur Bressan about AIDS. Science Center, Lecture Hall E, Harvard Yard. 8 & 10PM. \$2.50.

Cambridge — An Evening with Robert Wilson in Harvard/Radcliffe's Festival of Life. Brattle Theatre, Harvard Sq. 8PM. \$15. Info: 876-4226.

Boston — Greater Boston Gay Men's Assoc. AIDS update. St. John the Evangelist, 33 Bowdoin St., Beacon Hill. 8PM. All welcome, bring food or drink.

note this!

The Chekhov Project

The Chekhov Project: Work on 3 Sisters is presented by the Double Edge Theater in its new permanent space at the Church of Sts. Luke and Margaret in Allston. Guest director Jacques Chwat explores "those segments of the text which seem most essential" in this adaptation based on the play by Chekhov. The result is a shorter, pared down version of a work that takes place in a small Russian town at the turn of the century.

Double Edge Theater is known as a local feminist theater company. Past productions such as *My Sister in This House* had a feverish, at times overwrought, quality, and characters on the verge of desperation or madness. If you are not a devotee of Chekhov or if you are looking for something with a definite feminist message, you may come away from this short piece with little more than you came in with. The women and men of the cast handle the material well enough, but I didn't feel pulled into their world; and because I didn't feel transported back to that time in Russia, the sentiments seemed dated. Characters wonder aloud: Is life without purpose worth living? Is the Human Race Progressing? The work is performed on a bare stage, with improvised costumes and a creative use of lighting. In this context lines such as "I've dreamed and fantasized for so long, my soul is like a magnificent piano that has never been played" sound almost like a parody.

In the program there is a quote from Chekhov: "You ask what is life. That is just the same as asking what is a carrot? A carrot is a carrot and nothing more is known about it." *The Chekhov Project* left me with questions: What does it mean to be a feminist theater company? Why Chekhov? I don't think it is a bad thing that Double Edge is presenting less disturbing theater, but I do still expect them to be somehow more daring.

— Monica Hileman

The Mystery of Alexina. Directed by Rene Feret. Written by Feret and Jean Gruault. With Vuillemin, Valerie Stroh, Veronique Silver, Bernard Freyd. Running time 86 min. At the Sack Copley, Boston.

No one loves a hermaphrodite, according to *The Mystery of Alexina*, a new French film based the true story of nineteenth century Herculine Barbin, who spent the first 22 years of her life as a woman, then legally sought recognition as a man. Barbin's story was lost until French philosopher Michel Foucault re-published Barbin's memoirs.

Having been raised in convent schools, Barbin wrote her life story with all of the passion and clandestine eroticism of a school-girl reverie. Director Rene Feret has done well in capturing that on film. Focusing on the last years of Barbin's life, *The Mystery of Alexina* tells of her love affair with Sara, a co-teacher in a girls' school, and the eventual discovery of Alexina's ambiguous gender identity. Of course, scandal ensues and there is very little place for anyone who does not conform to the strict social/gender expectations.

Feret's film is lovingly photographed and the screenplay is literary without being dull. Great respect is paid to all of the characters — enhanced by a wonderful performance by French male cartoonist Vuillemin as Alexina — and the story is told as non-sensationally as possible. *The Mystery of Alexina* is a meditation on a slice of our sexual history that treats both its own time and ours with intelligence and respect.

— Michael Bronski

Calendar compiled by Miranda Kolbe

GAY COMMUNITY NEWS

Win fun and valuable prizes while supporting your community newspaper

GCN raffle

1st Prize:

MONTREAL WEEKEND FOR 2

r/t airfare & accommodations

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Drawing will be held at GCN benefit in late March. Watch for details.

Ticket holders need not be present to win!

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weekend for 2 in P'town, Fairbanks Inn
Women in Theatre Festival, 2 tickets
\$25 gift certificate at Arborway Video
\$50 in repairs and/or auto parts at J&S Auto
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self-defense workshop at Sanchin School
dinner for 2 at new P'town gourmet deli
Bodyworks Gym 6-month membership
1-hour massage at Whole Health Group
dinner for 2 at The Downtown Cafe
new lesbian sex comedy video from Tigress Productions
2 haircuts from B. Cummings

1986 Gay/ Lesbian Film Fest, 2 tickets
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GCN 1-year subscription

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Enclosed is a check or money order for \$ _____

Please send me _____ tickets at 1/\$1 and 7/\$5.

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